

# **Ellis Family**

**The family of John Spencer Ellis  
and Mary May Martyn**

George Stevens

This is a reconstruction of a family history prepared by George Stevens in 2001. It was reassembled from some of the source materials and copies of others to ensure that the information recorded in it remains available to future historians. I am grateful to Anne Taylor, a Martyn descendant in Wales, for extra information and corrections.

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## Ellis Family

### Introduction

The material has been simply organised as follows:

Foreword

The Ellis Family

Chapter 1. John Lewis Spencer Ellis

Chapter 2. Mary May nee Martyn Ellis

Chapter 3. Rita May Ellis

Chapter 4. End matter

It is inevitable in creating a family history, that after perhaps 12 months of research, the pool of available knowledge dries up, and a decision is made to finalise and to print the accumulated information. However it seems there is a natural law stating that within 28 days of receiving the finished product back from the printer, a package of new and very relevant information turns up unexpectedly. This may well be the case here because at the time of compiling this history, nothing is known of John's early background in Wales UK, and little is known about his time in New Zealand. So be it.

The following persons and organisations are recognised here and sincerely thanked for their willing co-operation in providing much of the material.

Armstrong	Marion	Martyn family member
Cole	Mark	NZ Railway & Locomotive Society
Kirwan	N.M.	NZ Immigration Service
Knight	David	NZ Archives
McCormack	Trish	NZ Archives
Molony	Ian	Good friend
Morse	Valerie	NZ Archives
O.I.C.		WW1 Personnel Records Service, Australian National Archives
Pope	Carolyn	NZ Rail Corporation
Reference Section		Shoalhaven City Library
Watt	Narelle	Martyn family member
Williamson	Brian	Author "Six Bob Trooper"

## Foreword

During the second half of 2000 and the first half of 2001, I was co-ordinating other members of the Australian Martyn family in the creation of a Martyn Family History book. In searching for photographs of the 8 children born to John & Dorothy Martyn, and the respective spouses, I was given a rather indistinct photograph taken about 1916 of a family group standing on the verandah of a house, "Romani" in Fowler Road Guildford NSW. The house name "Romani" meant nothing to me at the time, but later became very significant. One of the group was John Lewis Spencer Ellis, husband of Mary May Martyn. At the time of creating the Martyn history book, this was one of two known photographs of John Ellis, but far too small and indistinct for inclusion in the book as representative of John, although satisfactory for inclusion as a family group. The photograph's donor, Mrs Narelle Watt had the image of John Ellis removed from the group and enlarged such that the size and quality of reproduction made it quite suitable for inclusion in the book. Narelle also had an earlier photo of John, taken about 1901 in South Africa.

In studying this enlarged photograph (the 1916 one) of John, I noted he was wearing a military uniform. As the date of the photograph was about 1916, logically the uniform should have been that of the 1st AIF. However, it resembled the uniform worn by British and Commonwealth soldiers at the Boer War. What was it? The thing that really captured my attention however was the service ribbons worn on the left chest of his tunic. There were what appeared to be 2 ribbons. The first was quite indistinguishable. The second really intrigued me because it looked like the ribbon of a Military Cross (MC). But for three reasons this was unlikely, the main one being that MCs go to officers, and as John's uniform was not that of an officer, it could not be an MC. But what? It looked like a 3 colour ribbon with a dark centre and white either side, just like an MC but quite unlike any other ribbon to my knowledge. I had to keep in mind however that because the small photo was now 80 years old, that the magnification of John's image was probably 10 fold, it was inevitable that aberrations in the photoreproduction process would occur, and what looked to my less than perfect eyesight like white might very well be an entirely different colour.

This urge to solve the mystery led me to think about this Ellis family. There was John the father, a man with military background, Mary May the mother who had travelled the world and Rita the daughter who contributed much of her adult life to the care of others. All are deceased. John & Mary May had one child only and this was Rita. Rita did not marry, and unlike many of her cousins, has no direct descendants to remember her. Thus this little family which must have contributed a lot to Australian history, was fast fading into obscurity. I could foresee a time not too distant in the future, when someone seeing a photograph of Rita (Mary May features in the Martyn Family History book), or looking at John's medals displayed somewhere might ask "Who were these people?", and there would be no one to answer the question. So I set about researching all three of John, Mary May and Rita, to create a document which would record some of the history of this Ellis family of three so that they don't fade completely from human memory.

Coincidentally, in June 2001 the NSW Returned Service League announced a writing competition, and it seemed to me that the story of the Ellis family met the entry criteria. What follows next in this history is a copy of the 3 page story which I created for entry into the competition, and it gives a summary of the main topics recorded in this book.

Following this, the chapters 1, 2 and 3 deal respectively with details of John, Mary May and Rita.

George Stevens  
Vincentia NSW  
June 2001



## **The Ellis Family**

This is a true story which covers the period 1900 through to 1999, and as such is consistent with the intent to acknowledge the role played by veterans and their families in the development of Australia as a nation, and with the theme of “A Century of Service”.

My story starts in mid 2000 when, approaching my “autumn years” and enjoying the luxury of doing as I please in retirement, I decided to help my wife compile a history of her family. The patriarch was a Cornishman John Martyn who married a young American woman, Dorothy Crawford in Pennsylvania in 1871. They had 3 children before migrating to New South Wales in 1877. The second of these three children was Mary May Martyn, who subsequently married John Lewis Spencer Ellis in Huntly New Zealand in 1908.

At the time of compiling this family history, I knew very little about Mary May, and absolutely nothing about her husband John. In fact, very few of the living family members knew much about John, other than he was felt to have been a cruel taskmaster of a husband and father, periodically paranoid in behaviour, and a remote unapproachable man. While there were suspicions regarding the circumstances of his premature death, it was generally felt that his surviving family were better off for John’s demise. It seems there was little mourning for John.

In researching the availability of photographs to include in the Martyn history book, a cousin, Narelle Watt at Coffs Harbour, found a small photo of a group taken on the front porch of John and Mary May’s home in Fowler Road Guildford. The group comprised Mary May, her mother Dorothy, Mary and John’s only child Rita, a neighbour and John. By estimating the age of the infant Rita in the photo, and knowing Rita’s birth date, we were able to establish with some degree of certainty, that the photo was taken in 1916. Efforts were made in 2001 to locate this house but without success. The only clue, which was revealed by studying the photo with a magnifying glass was the house name on the porch wall. This was “Romani”, and at the time of our research meant nothing to us. Later it became very significant.

Through the wonders of modern photo technology, this photo was enlarged, and the figure of John extracted to provide an inclusion of John in the family history book we were compiling. When I saw this photo enlargement, my curiosity about John became aroused to the point where I am now almost obsessed to solve a mystery it presented to me.

In the photo enlargement we see a severe looking gaunt faced man in a military uniform, and although it is a black and white photo, the second of two service ribbons he is wearing on his tunic is quite distinctly white, with a dark centre. At first I was only mildly curious about this ribbon, and consulted my medals reference books. It looked very much like a Military Cross, but could not have been such because the uniform was not that of a commissioned officer. Growing curiosity meant that I just had to identify that service ribbon.

A second and older photo of John was discovered. This was taken in Johannesburg in 1901 and showed a much younger alert and healthy man in the uniform of a New Zealand mounted trooper. Enquiries were made to the New Zealand Archives, and these resulted in copies of John’s NZ army service records being mailed to us. John enlisted in the NZ Second Contingent to South Africa on 19th January 1900, and returned home to Wellington in March 1902 with the Boer War medal, later known as the QSA & KSA, with bars for Johannesburg, Diamond Hill, Cape Colony and Orange Free State. But none of these campaign decorations even faintly resembled the ribbon in the photo.

Family lore had it that John served in the 1st AIF during WWI. So the next step was to make enquiries of the National Archives of Australia in Canberra. They provided excellent service. Copies of John’s 1st AIF records showed some very interesting facts. Firstly he enlisted at Rosebery on the 21st of August 1914, 17 days after the declaration of war. Secondly because of his past experience as a mounted trooper in the Boer War, and his 10 years of experience, part time, in two New Zealand mounted regiments, he was accepted into the 1st Light Horse

Regiment of the 1st Light Horse Brigade with the very early service number of 19. There were other facts which will be mentioned later on.

So, 1st Light Horse. A famed unit. But what specifically did he do, and where did he go? His Australian service records show he was in the ship "Star of Victoria", part of the big convoy which sailed from Sydney on 20th of October 1914 bound for Egypt. As well, he with the rest of the 1st LH Regiment landed at Gallipoli at 0600 hours on the 12th of May 1915. John remained with his regiment on the peninsula and was one of the last to leave between the 19th and 21st of December. The next entry of significance in his records is that with his Regiment he took part in the battle of Romani in the Sinai Desert during August 1916.

Service record entries are necessarily brief and limited to essential facts. We wanted to know more about conditions which the 1st LH Regiment endured on Gallipoli and in the Sinai Desert. To help answer these questions we turned to the reference section of the Shoal haven City library. There were a number of books dealing with aspects of the 1st Light Horse, but the real treasure was a book titled "Six Bob Trooper", the life of Alfred Thomas Winterton of the First Light Horse Regiment, written and published by Brian C. Williamson of Balmain.

Charles Bean, official WW1 historian records that in the 1st AIF there were a total of five Light Horse Brigades, each comprising 3 Regiments. Typically a Regiment comprised .500 men of whom 480 were "front line", and the remainder HQ and support. Each Regiment had 3 Squadrons. Each Squadron had 4 Troops. Each Troop had 10 sections and each Section had 4 men. Thus with only .500 men to a Regiment, and as both John and Alfred were in the same Regiment, much of what Brian Williamson has reported about Alfred must certainly apply also to John during his 2 years and 4 months with the Regiment. This book has revealed much to us about the likely nature of the man, John Ellis.

In studying Brian Williamson's graphic book, one of the highlights of the Light Horse renowned history was the battle of Romani. It has been claimed that the battle of Romani was a significant factor in turning the tide of the war, because it was the first time that a very large contingent of the mighty Turkish army had been defeated in battle. Clearly John took the name of Romani to be of such significance to him that he used that name for his home in Guildford.

During the battle of Romani, Trooper Alfred Thomas Winterton was killed. John Lewis Spencer Ellis was hit in the right ankle by shrapnel, and carried from the battlefield to a forward base hospital at Ismalia, and then to Alexandria before being shipped home to Australia as "Medically unfit for service".

Now here is an interesting situation. John was considered medically unfit for further service, not because of his shrapnel wound, but because of two other conditions. One was a deterioration in his eyesight, and the other was chronic bronchitis. It is very interesting that in order for his two medical conditions occasioning medical discharge to be discovered, he had to be wounded in action and hospitalised first. What does this say about the man's personal fortitude, dedication to duty and loyalty to his mates? The prognosis was that these conditions were of a temporary nature, and that he would be completely recovered within 6 months. We don't know how his physical health progressed, but we do know that he and his family received a government pension for at least 2 years commencing December 1916 when he was discharged.

John had experienced war conditions in South Africa, and these must have had some impact on his mental processes. He had spent a total of 7 months at Gallipoli, arriving in May 1915 and was one of the last to leave in December 1915. During this period, of the original SOO in his Regiment plus replacements, 119 were killed and 397 were wounded and evacuated. He was wounded in the Sinai Desert fierce campaign of Romani, and would have seen many of his comrades killed in both campaigns.

All of the foregoing is fact. The next paragraph is speculation.

John came home to a world he could not cope with. For the previous 16 years, in one way or another he had been directly involved in matters military. He was lost in a world of post war reconstruction. Accustomed to living in fear for his life, in intolerable living conditions, he was unable to come to terms with a society (family and friends) which had little concept of war horrors. Progressively his vivid memories of Gallipoli and Romani took control of his life to the point where he felt he could no longer cope.

On the evening of the 23rd of April 1923, Mary May, in company with 10 year old Rita and John's sister visiting from New Zealand were sitting in the Roxy theatre at Granville, when a notice was displayed on the screen. "Would Mrs May Ellis please go to the theatre office". Here Mary May learned that shortly before, John had fallen from the platform at Granville Railway station, injured, and had been admitted to Parramatta hospital. John was dead when Mary May went to the hospital. No one will ever know for certain, but there is a strong suspicion that John suicided by jumping under an oncoming train.

In the years following WW2, we have learned a lot about the recognition of and treatment of war related neuroses, such as the programs which have been introduced to assist Vietnam veterans and their families. Had such programs existed in 1923, John, and thousands of other returned servicemen similarly affected may have been helped to live through their traumas and deep depression. Yes, John was perceived by the family as a cruel and exacting taskmaster to his wife and daughter, but there is little doubt that the prime cause of his aggressive behaviour was the effects of his war experiences. He unquestionably made his contribution to "A Century of Service", and in the process suffered dearly for this.

What about his widow and little daughter? They too suffered as a consequence of John's - contribution. Mary May, having no means of financial support available, (there was very little in the way of government pensions in those days) with Rita's assistance took in paying boarders until at age 61 succumbed to pneumonia and died. This left the inexperienced and untrained 21 year old Rita to fend for herself. Rita had her mother's love of humanity, her strength of character and her father's wish for adventure. She dedicated her working life to looking after the sick. Following 4 year's training, Rita qualified as a nurse in 1941, and during the subsequent 34 years qualified and practiced in a variety of disciplines including mothercraft, infectious diseases, obstetrics, Tresillian nursing, midwifery and baby health care in NSW, Queensland, Victoria, England and Wales. So in her way, Rita also contributed to the "Century of Service".

Rita's life was not all work. She made time to study music, and qualified for 9 certificates of competence and knowledge issued by the Australian Examinations Board and the London College of Music. She also travelled to Europe and a number of Asian countries.

Rita died in 1999, and with her death, the little Ellis family ceased to exist. What remains are the records of John who gave much in the service of his countries of New Zealand and Australia, the esteem of thousands of patients who were cared for by Rita, and for a few of the older generation of Martyns, the fond memories of Mary May who was loved by all the nieces and nephews. This was a family unit, the like of which is the cornerstone of Australian heritage.

But what about the matter which led to all of the foregoing being researched and written, the medal ribbon? It is not a Boer War medal. It is not any of the WWI trio. There is nothing like it in my catalogues of coronation, long service, rifle shooting and other miscellaneous ribbons. So although it still remains a mystery, it did give me the impetus to record something of the lives of the Ellis family and their contribution to A Century of Service.

George Stevens  
Vincentia NSW  
July 2001



## **Chapter 1. John Lewis Spencer Ellis**

This chapter comprises a number of sections as follows:

Firstly there is a summary word picture of what we know of the main events of John's life.

This is followed by a description of the man, as best we can gather from all the evidence at hand.

Next there are comments and copies of records of his service in the NZ Army during the Boer War.

Finally there is a fair bit of information about his service in the 1st AIF. This material is organised into sub sections of

- Recruitment and general service information
- Order of Battle of the Australian Light Horse, per courtesy of Charles Bean's History of WWI.
- Reference to the book by Brian Williamson "Six Bob Trooper"
- Copies of correspondence relating to the miscommunication of John's injury, between Mary May and the Australian Army authorities. These include a copy of Mary May's hand written letter of concern dated 2 September 1916, the Army's response dated 7 September 1916, copies of Army letters written 15 August, 21 August, 23 August and 19 September. As well, there are photocopies of the readdressed envelopes sent to Mary May at 55 Dennison Street.
- Reports relating to his medical condition. These reports illustrate the care taken by the Military to ensure the case received full consideration.
- Information relating to his pension. As indicated in the text, there is no evidence of how long the final pension was paid, nor why there were quite rapid pension reductions between 16 December 1916 and 28 February 1918.

Note: Reference is made in the text (under the subheading of "John Ellis - The Man") to the difference in appearance of John in two photographs, one taken in South Africa in c. 1900, and the other taken in Guildford in c. 1916. These observations are pure speculation on the part of the author.

## John Ellis – Dates

We believe, but it is not confirmed, that John was born on 9 June 1867. His father was Thomas Ellis and his mother was Mary, maiden name not known. John was born at Carmarthen Wales, or as the Welsh spell it, Caefyrddin, which is about 85 km to the west north west of Cardiff and at the intersection of the present day major roads of A40 & A48.

Little is presently known about John's family or his early life. New Zealand archives have a record of a John Ellis arriving in Wellington on the ship "Tongariro" in 1899. It is assumed but not substantiated that this was our John Ellis. The Nominal Rolls of the NZ contingents for South Africa, (1900), show Private John Lewis Spencer Ellis as occupation Farmer living at Riversdale Southland, with his next of kin being his father Mr T. Ellis of Waverley Wanganui. We also know from family records that John had a sister also resident in New Zealand. So it would appear that the whole family migrated together. The first reliable records we have are his New Zealand army records.

"Reliable" records - but with some minor discrepancies. There are 3 documents, all of which agree his name and number of 331. Two have him joining as a Private, one on 19/11/1900 age 27, and the second one on 20/11/1900 age 23, the third having him join as a Trooper on 10/11/1900, age not stated. Two have him joining the 2nd New Zealand Contingent and the third has him joining the New Zealand Rifles Regiment. One has him being invalided out on 25/8/1901 at age 28, another has him leaving the army at his own request on 6/5/1902 at age 26 and the third has him "Completion of Service" on 28/8/1902 at age 26. There is agreement that he served abroad for a total of 1 year and 356 days. There is also agreement that he took part in military campaigns during the Boer war earning him entitlement to wear the following bars to the Queens South Africa Medal 1899- 1902 (formerly the Boer War Medal).

Johannesburg 31/5/1900

Diamond Hill 11 to 12/6/1900

Cape Colony 1/10/1899 to 31/5/1902

Orange Free State 28/2/1900 to 31/5/1902

One document shows that upon leaving the army, he intended living in Waverley Wanganui to become a farmer.

We can make some reasonable assumptions from the foregoing. John was 23 when he joined the New Zealand army's 2nd Contingent for service in South Africa. He spent approximately 2 years and 282 days in the army, 1 year and 356 days of which were on overseas service.

Copies of these New Zealand army records are included in this chapter.

The next documented event in John's life was his marriage to Mary May Martyn on 10th June 1908. The copy of the Certified Copy of Entry of Marriage in Chapter 2 shows the marriage took place at Huntly New Zealand. Huntly is a town in the North Island of New Zealand, perhaps 50 Km slightly east of south of the main city of Auckland. The Entry of Marriage, copy included in Chapter 2, shows John's occupation as Railway employee, his age as 35, his status as Bachelor, and that his birthplace was Wales England. (Author's note: I hope no Welsh nationalist sees this entry of Wales being in England). The Honorary Archivist of the NZ Railway & Locomotive Society has confirmed that John worked as a Porter for NZ Railways for 7 months up to the 1st April 1908.

In 1914, two significant events happened to John. The first was the birth of his daughter and only child Rita May Ellis on 23rd June. More about Rita in Chapter 3. The second event was the declaration of war between Great Britain and Germany on 4th August 1914, and John's decision to join the Australian Imperial Force, the 1st AIF, 17 days later on 21st August. He was then age 37.

# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

## NOMINAL ROLL.

### 1ST LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT.

(EMBARKED AT SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, ON TRANSPORT A16, "STAR OF VICTORIA," 20TH OCTOBER, 1914.)

HEAD-QUARTERS.																
Regt. No.	Name in full.	Rank.	Age.	Trade or Calling.	Married or Single.	Address at Date of Enlistment.	Next of Kin and Address.	Religion.	Date of Joining.	A.M.F. Unit to which he is attached.	Pay.					Daily Rate of Pay, only payable on Completion of Term.
											Before Embarkation.		After Embarkation.			
											Rate per Week.	Due to which Post.	Daily Rate, including Deceased Pay.	Allowance in Australia per Week.	Not Rate, per Allowance as to which Post.	
											s. d.		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
..	Meredith, John Baldwin	Lieut.-Col.	50	Medical practitioner	M.	The Bungalow, Raymond-terrace, N.S.W.	Mrs. Evelyn Meredith, wife, The Bungalow, Raymond-terrace, N.S.W.	C. of E.	28.8.14		37 6		30 0	20 0	10 0	7 6
..	Vernon, Hugh Venables	Major	37		M.		Mrs. H. W. Vernon, wife, Warrawee-avenue, Turromuri, N.S.W.	C. of E.	27.8.14	7th L.H.	30 0		26 0	20 0	5 0	5 0
..	Holman, Richard Dudley	2nd Lieut. (Adjutant)	23	Soldier	S.		Major R. C. Holman, Victoria Barracks, Sydney, N.S.W.	C. of E.	24.8.14	A. & I. Staff	15 0		14 0	10 0	4 0	3 6
..	Fitzpatrick, Albert Leslie	2nd Lieut. (Qr.-mr.)	27		S.		J. C. L. Fitzpatrick, Clare, Garnett-street, Dulwich Hill, N.S.W.	R.C.	27.8.14	A.A.S.C.	15 0		14 0	8 0	6 0	3 6
..	Fullerton, Alexander Young	Captain (Medical Officer)	49	Medical practitioner	M.		Mrs. H. Fullerton, wife, Netley Flats, Walker-street, North Sydney, N.S.W.		25.8.14	36th A.A.M.C.	22 6		19 0	15 0	4 0	3 6
..	Oliver, Henry Oswald	Prov. Capt. (Veterinary Officer)	38	Government Veterinary Surgeon	S.		Mrs. A. Oliver, mother, 48 Arthur-street, North Sydney, N.S.W.	C. of E.	20.8.14		22 6		19 0		19 0	3 6
..	Dawes, James Frederick	Armourer-sergeant	37	Gunsmith fitter	S.		Mrs. G. Webb, sister, High-street, Esher, Surrey, England	C. of E.	4.9.14		10 0		10 6		10 6	2 6
1	Lindell, Frederick William	W.O.	45	Drill instructor	M.	Glenivie, Park-avenue, Randwick, N.S.W.	Mrs. F. H. Lindell, wife, Glenivie, Park-avenue, Randwick, N.S.W.	C. of E.	19.8.14	Instl. Staff	12 0		10 6	10 0	0 6	2 6
2	Webb, Henry Gunning	R.Q.M.S.	38	Soldier	M.	Albion Park, N.S.W.	Mrs. H. S. Webb, wife, 29 Orchard-road, Southsea, Portsmouth, England	C. of E.	19.8.14	Instl. Staff			10 6	5 0	5 6	2 6
5	Elliott, Leslie Shaw	Transport-sergeant	29	Stock exporter	S.	1 Herbert-street, Dulwich Hill, N.S.W.	Mrs. J. M. Elliott, wife, 29 Orchard-road, North Sydney, N.S.W.	C. of E.	25.8.14		10 0		8 6	5 0	3 6	2 0
6	Sargent, Dudley Hobart	Sergeant O.R.	34	Articled clerk	M.	29 Woolyer-road, Moama, N.S.W.	Mrs. Evelyn Sargent, wife, 29 Woolyer-road, Moama, N.S.W.	C. of E.	28.8.14		10 6		9 6	7 0	2 6	2 0
7	James, Jeffries	Private	27	Labourer	S.	5 Commodore-street, Newtown, N.S.W.	Mrs. M. Strickland, 5 Commodore-street, Newtown, N.S.W.	C. of E.	5.9.14		5 0		5 0		5 0	1 0
8	Young, Frederick Richard Charles	Sergeant-trumpeter	21	Plumber	S.	Bishop-street, North Sydney, N.S.W.	Young, father, Bishop-street, North Sydney, N.S.W.	C. of E.	19.8.14	11th L.H.	10 0		8 6		8 6	2 0
9	Berriman, Job	Fr. Q.M.S.	38	Farrier	M.	1 Gospel-street, Paddington, N.S.W.	Mrs. L. Berriman, wife, "Acacia," Mount-street, Coogee, N.S.W.	C. of E.	19.8.14		11 0		10 0	5 0	5 0	2 0
*11	Garner, William	Private	21	Labourer	S.	Burley-street, North Fremantle, Western Australia	G. T. Garner, father, Burley-street, North Fremantle, Western Australia	C. of E.	8.9.14		5 0		5 0		5 0	1 0
12	Crichton, Stanley Robert	Signaller	22	Clerk	M.	1 Earn-street, Invercargill, New Zealand	Mrs. S. R. Crichton, wife, 1 Earn-street, Invercargill, New Zealand	C. of E.	25.8.14		5 0		5 0		5 0	1 0
14	Brown, Edwin Albert Ernest	Driver	28	Mattressmaker	S.	Vine-street, Hurstville, N.S.W.	Mrs. B. Brown, Vine-street, Hurstville, N.S.W.	C. of E.	19.8.14	9th L.H.	6 0		6 0	5 0	1 0	1 0
15	Davidson, John Gibson	Private	24	Labourer	S.		William Davidson, father, Fortrose, Rosshire, Scotland	Pres.	24.8.14		5 0		5 0		5 0	1 0
17	Howard, William	Private	35	Miner	S.	Care of — Moore, 1 Albert-street, Rozelle, N.S.W.	Mrs. C. Howard, mother, Manchester, Lancashire, England	C. of E.	19.8.14		5 0		5 0		5 0	1 0
18	Oakes, Arthur Wallesey	Signaller	28	Accountant	S.	Care of J. W. Dumbury, "Wyalong," Cumnore, N.S.W.	Archdeacon Oakes, The Rectory, Kelsa, N.S.W.	C. of E.	24.8.14		5 0		5 0	3 0	2 0	1 0
19	Ellis, John Lewis Spencer	Driver	37	Engineer and fitter	M.	55 Dennison-street, Waverley, N.S.W.	Mrs. Mary May Ellis, wife, 55 Dennison-street, Waverley, N.S.W.	C. of E.	24.8.14		8 0		6 0	5 0	1 0	1 0
20	Fitzgerald, Desmond Breerton	Signaller	22	Station overseer	S.	Wollongong, N.S.W.	R. D. Fitzgerald, father, Dist. Engineer, Wollongong, N.S.W.	C. of E.	24.8.14		5 0		5 0	3 0	2 0	1 0
*21	Kimball, Leslie Austin	Driver	22	Farmer	S.	Bowna, Albury, N.S.W.	John Austin Kimball, Bowna, Albury, N.S.W.	R.C.	24.8.14		6 0		6 0	4 0	2 0	1 0
23	Parker, Alfred	Driver	32	Miner	M.	Care of Mrs. Pickering, Helenaburgh, South Coast, N.S.W.	Mrs. A. Parker, Lower Churchfield-road, Shond, Gloucestershire, England	C. of E.	19.8.14		6 0		6 0		6 0	1 0
26	Morris, Edward William	Driver	27	Powder-monkey	S.		Mrs. A. C. Gran, mother, West Wyalong, N.S.W.	C. of E.	29.8.14		6 0		6 0	4 0	2 0	1 0
29	McGilligan, Michael	Private	39	Labourer	S.	Royal Military College, Duntroon, N.S.W.	Mrs. McGilligan, Bellensueen, Drapers-town, Londonderry, Ireland	R.C.	21.8.14		5 0		5 0	3 0	2 0	1 0
30	Clark, William Thomas	Private	23	Groom	S.	Home Affairs Department, Duntroon, N.S.W.	Mc. E. H. Clark, Home Affairs Department, Duntroon, N.S.W.	Pres.	21.8.14		5 0		5 0	3 0	2 0	1 0
31	Sumner, Frederick Thomas	Batman	38	Motor driver	S.	Royal Military College, Duntroon, N.S.W.	Mrs. Sumner, Brokers-road-street, Stoke Newington, London, N.E., England	C. of E.	21.8.14		5 0		5 0		5 0	1 0
34	Purcell, William	Private	28	Labourer	S.	Inverell, N.S.W.	E. Purcell, father, Inverell, N.S.W.	R.C.	10.9.14		5 0		5 0	2 0	3 0	1 0

\* Embarked on Transport A4, "Chas MacDonnell."

Because of his Boer War experiences, and his 8 years experience with the Wairoa (NZ) Light Horse Regiment and 2 years with the Wairoa Mounted Rifles Regiment, despite his age he was accepted into the 1st Regiment of the 1st Australian Light Horse (ALH) Brigade with the service number of 19. His occupation at enlistment was Engineer & Fitter.

A combination of information in his AIF service documents, copies of some of which are included at the end of this chapter, and a book titled "Six Bob Trooper" written & published by Brian C Williamson of Balmain NSW provide a very detailed account of John's war experiences between August 1914 and December 1916. This book recounts in considerable detail much of what happened to Trooper Albert Thomas Winterton of the 1st LH Regiment, and unquestionably reveals much of what also must have happened to John Ellis. To understand in depth the privations suffered by John Ellis (and all of his regiment) a study of this book is imperative.

The bald summary facts are as follows. John was one of the many thousands of Australian troops who sailed for Egypt in October 1914. After extensive training in Egypt near Cairo with the 1st ALH Regiment (Refer Australian Light Horse Order of Battle in this chapter) he embarked for Gallipoli on 9th May 1915, going ashore at Anzac Cove at 0600 hours on the 12th May, (Williamson page 36) and remaining there until the final evacuation to Lemnos on 22nd December 1916 (Williamson page 79). During this 7 months period he was at Gallipoli some 8,000 Australian troops were killed. From his regiment of approximately 500 men, 119

were killed, 397 wounded, and an unknown number withdrawn because of illnesses such as dysentery & pneumonia. Some replacements joined during this time and the final complement of the 1st LH Regiment who left Gallipoli in December 1915 was 366, approximately 73% of full strength.

With his Regiment he then joined the Western Front Force Egypt on 14 January 1916. During the period June through early August 1916, there was a gradual massing of Turkish and British troops in the Sinai Desert to the east of the Suez Canal, with periodic skirmishes. It became apparent that a major offensive was to be launched by the Turkish troops, and the British quickly put together an armed force comprising units of 3 British infantry Divisions, 3 Brigades, the Anzac Mounted corps of which the 1st Lighthorse Regiment was one unit, and a supporting artillery unit.

On 4 August 1916 the fierce battle of Romani commenced with approximately 15,000 men on each side, in extreme heat conditions, endeavouring for supremacy. By the end of the third day of constant battles, the Turkish army retreated leaving 3,000 dead and 4,000 prisoners. John's unit, the 1st LH Regiment lost 157 dead, about 30% of their full strength. (British losses are not known to the author but it is reasonable to assume a total of 2,500 to 3,000). On the third day, the 6th, John was wounded in the right ankle and taken to hospital at Ismailia, part way along the Suez Canal.. From there he was transferred to the base hospital at Abbassa on 14th August for treatment of his wound and other conditions of chronic bronchitis and sub-acute conjunctivitis. Declared medically unfit for further military service he was transferred to the ship "Arcanius" on 2 September 1916 for transport to Sydney. He was subsequently discharged in Sydney on 15th December 1916.

John was in receipt of a military pension for a period, and some details are included in this chapter. The records show his pension was progressively reduced on two occasions during a two year period, but there is no explanation why. There is also no record of his pension ceasing completely. It is not known by what means John supported his family between 1917 and his death in 1923.

John died 23/4/1923, at an early age of 46. Family lore has it that he committed suicide by jumping under a moving train at Granville Railway station one evening. When one considers John's war time experiences, it is reasonable to conclude that he suffered deep depression which in turn led to his premature death.

### **John Ellis - The Man**

There is anecdotal evidence in the family that John Ellis gave his wife and child a hard time.

Marion Armstrong stayed with the Ellis family on occasions and recalls how strict John was in directing the behaviour of not only Rita and herself, but also of his wife Mary May. Narelle Watt has stated that John gave Rita "a hard life". There are also stories about how John would follow Mary May to church meetings, and drag her out while shouting abuse. So, there is no doubt that John's behaviour towards his family was in very poor taste.

One has to wonder why. Was he always like this? There is evidence to suggest that events in his adult life caused a fundamental change in his attitudes, and while this in no way excuses his somewhat cruel behaviour, it does help explain it.

Consider first of all his marriage in 1908 to Mary May. Mary May was a mature world travelled, socially adept, musically talented and attractive looking woman. She had no need to rush into marriage with the first available suitor, and clearly took her time to select the right mate. Love causes strange behaviours, but there is a high probability that this woman married a man, suitable in all respects at the time as a husband and future father.

Look at the studio photo of John. taken some time around 1900 in South Africa, and compare the stance and facial features of the man in the photo taken on the front porch of "Romani" in 1916. These are two entirely different characters. In the former we see a direct looking, almost



mischievous pair of eyes, a healthy looking countenance and a relaxed body posture. In the latter we see a haggard facial expression with eyes averted and a tense body stance.

If these observations and conjecture are correct, what caused the change in this man?

A likely answer lies in his World War 1 experiences. There have been books written about the exploits of the Australian Light Horse (ALH), giving graphic accounts of the conditions these men endured at Gallipoli and in the Sinai Desert. One book in particular titled “Six Bob Trooper” written and published by Brian C. Williamson (address in April 2001 1 Ann Street Balmain NSW 2041 Tel 02 9931 4849) is a biography of Trooper Alfred Thomas Winterton. This biography describes in fine detail how the men of John Ellis’ Regiment, the 1st Light Horse, lived and died on the shores of Gallipoli and in the hot sands of the Sinai Desert in the Battle of Romani. (Romani was the name given by John to his home in Fowler Road Guildford NSW.)

Another book is “Light Horse” by Elyne Mitchell ISBN 0 333 25141 5. Chapter 6 provides some insight to the ALH’s involvement in Gallipoli, and Chapter 7 discusses “Romani, The Great Desert Battle”. In this enlightened age of the 21st century, and with the benefit of much study and research, we know that many soldiers who were subject to extreme war conditions were affected emotionally for the remainder of their lives.

John spent 7 months on the Gallipoli Peninsula, in active war conditions every day. During his time there, something like 8,000 Australian soldiers died. Eight months after being evacuated from Gallipoli he was in the middle of the fierce battle of Romani Egypt, during which he suffered a wound to his right ankle. Hospitalisation for this wound led to the discovery that



**John Ellis taken in Johannesburg c. 1900.  
John about 23 years of age.**



**This photo is an extraction and an enlargement  
of the group photo taken at the Guildford home  
“Romani”. John would have been about 40  
years of age here.**



NEW ZEALAND.

# CONTINGENT FOR SERVICE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

## ATTESTATION FORM FOR VOLUNTEERS.

Regimental No. 331 Company: N<sup>o</sup> 1  
Horse: 552 Carbine: 1112 + 331  
Name in full: Ellis John Lewis Spencer  
Corps from which drafted: Waikato M.R. N<sup>o</sup> 1  
Rank and length of service: Private, 4 years  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Trade or calling: Farmer  
Name and address of employer: A. B. Heather Hamilton Waikato  
Age: 27 years 9 months. Height: 5 feet 8 inches.  
Chest-measurement: 36 inches. Weight: 10 st. 7 lb.  
Religion: Cof. E  
Next-of-kin (name in full): Father) Thomas  
Address: Waverly Wanganui  
To whom pay to be paid: Myself

If not already sworn in as a Volunteer the following oath must be taken:—

I, THE above-named  
do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and that I will faithfully serve in the Volunteer Force of New Zealand both within and without the colony until I shall be lawfully discharged.

Witness my hand.

Signature of Volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_


Witness present: \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn before me, at Wellington, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
one thousand \_\_\_\_\_

Gac/12/99-771241

Signature of Attesting Officer. \_\_\_\_\_

[Copy.]

  
 NEW ZEALAND.

[Should this certificate be lost or mislaid  
no duplicate of it can be obtained.]

**Certificate of Discharge** of No. 331 Rank: Private

Name: Ellis, John, Lewis, Spencer

Contingent: second, New Zealand

Born in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, near the Town of \_\_\_\_\_

Attested at Wellington on the 19 Jan, 1900  
 at the age of 28 years.

He is discharged in consequence of Completion of Service  
Invalider to England (no date)  
(Shown on Roll)

Medals and Decorations: 2nd Boer War  
'Johannesburg' Diamond Hill  
'Cape Colony' Orange Free State'

Character: Good

Service abroad: \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ days. War Gratuity paid

**DESCRIPTION ON DISCHARGE.**

Age: 29 Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Complexion: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Eyes: \_\_\_\_\_ Hair: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intended place of residence: Granville  
Manurewa

Signature: [Signature]  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Commandant, New Zealand Forces.


Date: 18 Oct, 1902  
 Wellington, New Zealand.

1,000/11/1901-9135

Any one finding this certificate is to return it to "The Commandant, New Zealand Forces, Wellington."

he had chronic bronchitis and subacute conjunctivitis which led to impaired vision. It is pure conjecture, but a very reasonable conclusion that as well as these discernible ailments, John was also suffering emotionally. In fact, the nature of his death lends credence to the assertion that as a result of his war experiences, he suffered increasing depression to the point where he met his death, by his own hand so to speak, in a railway accident at Granville on the 23rd April 1923. It has never been confirmed, but there is strong feeling among the family members who knew John, that he committed suicide by jumping under an approaching train.

Here we have an adventurous man. He migrated half a world away from Wales to New Zealand as a young man and began farming. He joined the New Zealand Army and fought in the South African Boer War. He became a New Zealand Railway employee. He spent his spare time, a total of 10 years in two NZ Army volunteer mounted regiments. He married and moved to Sydney, presumably to meet his wife's desires to be reunited with her family.

C.O.F. 

Book No.

From **HEADQUARTERS, WELLINGTON, N.Z.,**

**29<sup>th</sup> Aug.** 1902

To **331 Plt Jd & Ellis**  
**Late 2<sup>nd</sup> Conty**  
**Waverley Wayman**

**MEMORANDUM.**

Re **Final Discharge.** 27

12,000/4/1902-2544

Herewith please find your Final Discharge from 2<sup>nd</sup> Conty  
 Please acknowledge receipt of same hereon

\$ ✓ Inack sent  
 A.S.O  
 h-3 Jores

721  
 350  
 1805  
 1958

350  
 721  
 350  
 1805

1872

He volunteered to fight in the 1st AIF immediately Australia declared a state of war to exist between Germany and the British Empire. Men of adventure don't normally quit life prematurely without some serious motivation.

As stated above, John's authoritarian and overbearing control over his family is inexcusable, but when the likely causes are considered, it is understandable and warrants compassion.

Should this Parchment be lost or mislaid no duplicate of it can be obtained.

N.B.—Any person finding this Certificate is requested to forward it, in an unstamped envelope, to the Under Secretary of State for War, War Office, London.

Parchment Certificate of discharge of No. 331

Recruit 1st Lt. J. L. S. Ellis

(Regiment) Worcestershire Rifle

who was enlisted at C

on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 1900 .

He is discharged in consequence of at his own

request from father

in connection with

his war in South Africa

(Place) Home Office Signature of Colonel  
(Date) 13<sup>th</sup> March Commanding 1st Battalion  
Officer 1st Battalion

Description of the above-named man:—

Age 26 yrs Height 5 ft 8 ins

Complexion Fair Eyes Blue

Hair Dark Trade None

Marks or Scars, whether on face or other parts of body





NEW ZEALAND.

[Should this certificate be lost or mislaid  
no duplicate of it can be obtained.]

# Certificate of Discharge of No. 331 Rank: Private.

Name: Ellis John Lewis Spencer.

Contingent: 2nd New Zealand.

Born in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, near the Town of \_\_\_\_\_

Attested at Wellington on the 20th Jan. 1900.  
at the age of 27 years.

He is discharged in consequence of having been Invalided

Medals and Decorations: 2nd Boer War.  
"Johannesburg" "Diamond Hill"  
"Cape Colony" "Oranges Free State"

Character: Good.

Service abroad: 1 years 356 days. War Gratuity paid.

## DESCRIPTION ON DISCHARGE.

Age: 28. Height: 5' 8" Complexion: \_\_\_\_\_

Eyes: \_\_\_\_\_ Hair: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: farmer.

Intended place of residence: Waverley Wanganui.

Signature: [Signature]  
Commandant, New Zealand Forces.

Date: Apr 25, 1900.  
Wellington, New Zealand.

Any one finding this certificate is to return it to "The Commandant,  
New Zealand Forces, Wellington."

- 1572
1. JO BURG 31/5/1900  
2. D. HALL 11 - 12/6/1900  
3. CC 11/10/1899 - 31/5/1902  
4. OFS 28/2/1900 - 31/5/1902

1,000/11/1901-9135]

**A**

15949

49  
AUSTRALIANH.Q.  
MILITARY FORCES.**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.****Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.**No. 19Name Ellis John Lewis SpencerUnit No. 1 Light Horse RegimentJoined on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1914**Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.**

1. What is your Name? ... Ellis, John Lewis Spencer
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ... Carmarthen in or near the Town of Abergwillin in the County of South Wales
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... Yes
4. What is your age? ... 37 1/2 years
5. What is your trade or calling? ... Engineer & Fitter
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... No
7. Are you married? ... Yes
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... Mary May Ellis (Wife)  
Lauriston 55 Danvers Street  
Guildford Road Waverley N.S.W.  
No Guildford, Sydney, N.S.W.
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... No
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incorrigible and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? ... No
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge ... 2<sup>nd</sup> Wairarapa Light Horse, Resigned  
New Zealand Mounted Rifles 1<sup>st</sup> 316 days  
in South Africa; Conclusion of War
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... No
14. (For married men and widowers with children)—Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued to you either before or after embarkation during your term of service? ... Yes

John Lewis Spencer Ellis do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife and children.\*

Date 24/8/14[Signature]  
Signature of person enlisted.

D.377/8.14.—Q.10220.

\*This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.

CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTING OFFICER.

The foregoing questions were read to the person enlisted in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to by him.

I have examined his naturalization papers and am of opinion that they are correct.

(This to be struck out except in the case of persons who are naturalized British Subjects.)

Date

24/8/14

*R. D. Dolan*

Signature of Attesting Officer.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY PERSON BEING ENLISTED.\*

3, *John Lewis Spencer Ellis* swear that I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord the King in the Australian Imperial Force from *24/8/14* until the end of the War, and a further period of four months thereafter unless sooner lawfully discharged, dismissed, or removed therefrom; and that I will resist His Majesty's enemies and cause His Majesty's peace to be kept and maintained; and that I will in all matters appertaining to my service, faithfully discharge my duty according to law.

So HELP ME, GOD.

*J. L. S. Ellis*

Signature of Person Enlisted.

Taken and subscribed at *Rosburg* in

the State of

*N. S. W.*

this

*24<sup>th</sup>*

day

of

*August*

19 *14*, before me—

*A. F. Fitzpatrick*

Signature of Attesting Officer.

\*A person enlisting who objects to taking an oath may make an affirmation in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Act, and the above form must be amended accordingly. All amendments must be initialed by the Attesting Officer.



Description of John Lewis Spencer Ellis on Enlistment.

Age 37 years  $\frac{1}{2}$  months  
 Height 5 feet 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches  
 Weight 9 stone 9 lbs.  
 Chest Measurement  $\frac{33\frac{1}{2}}{36\frac{1}{2}}$  inches  
 Complexion Fair  
 Eyes Blue  
 Hair Grey  
 Religious Denomination C.E.

## DISTINCTIVE MARKS.

Scar on neck  
 Vac. left arm

## CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I HAVE examined the above-named person, and find that he does not present any of the following conditions, viz. :—

Scrofula; phthisis; syphilis; impaired constitution; defective intelligence; defects of vision, voice, or hearing; hernia; hæmorrhoids; varicose veins, beyond a limited extent; marked varicocele with unusually pendent testicle; inveterate cutaneous disease; chronic ulcers; traces of corporal punishment, or evidence of having been marked with the letters D. or B.C.; contracted or deformed chest; abnormal curvature of spine; or any other disease or physical defect calculated to unfit him for the duties of a soldier.

He can see the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs; and he declares he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for active service.

Date 24<sup>th</sup> August 1914

Place Sydney

W. Newton, Cpl.  
 Signature of Examining Medical Officer.

## CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

I CERTIFY that this Attestation of the above-named person is correct, and that the required forms have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to Headquarters.

Date 28 August 1914

Place Rosebury

John McCreath G. Cpl.  
 Commanding P.L.H.

## **Australian Light Horse, Order of Battle**

### **Australian Light Horse**

#### **1st Brigade**

- 1st Regiment - NSW
- 2nd Regiment - Queensland
- 3rd Regiment- SA & Tasmania

#### **2nd Brigade**

- 5th Regiment - Queensland
- 6th Regiment - NSW
- 7th Regiment - NSW

#### **3rd Brigade**

- 8th Regiment - Victoria
- 9th Regiment - SA & Victoria
- 10th Regiment - WA

#### **4th Brigade**

- 4th Regiment - Victoria
- 11th Regiment - Queensland & SA
- 12th Regiment- NSW

#### **5th Brigade**

- 14th Regiment- From Imperial Camel Corps
- 15th Regiment- From Imperial Camel Corps
- French Colonial Regiment (Spahis & Chasseurs d'Afrique)

Typically a regiment comprised 500 men, of whom 480 were "front line" and the remainder HQ & support. formed into 3 squadrons. A squadron was made up of 4 Troops. A Troop had 10 Sections with 4 men in each Section. Thus  $4 \times 10 \times 4 \times 3 = 480 + 20 = 500$ .

For special requirements, larger units were formed. Three of these were:

### **Desert Column, Sinai February 1917**

#### **Anzac Mounted Division**

- 1st Australian LH Brigade
- 2nd Australian LH Brigade
- New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade

#### **Imperial Mounted Division**

- 3rd Australian LH Brigade
- 4th Australian LH Brigade
- 5th Yeomanry Brigade
- 6th Yeomanry Brigade

### **Desert Mounted Corps (Allenby Reorganisation, August 1917)**

#### **Anzac Mounted Division (as above)**

#### **Australian Mounted Division\***

- 3rd Australian LH Brigade
- 4th Australian LH Brigade

#### **Imperial Camel Corps**

#### **Yeomanry mounted Division**

# Six Bob Trooper



The Life Of  
**Alfred Thomas Winterton**  
Of The 1st Light Horse Regiment



*By*  
*Brian C. Williamson*

# Six Bob Trooper

When war was declared in August 1914, one of the initial Australian expeditionary units formed was the 1st Light Horse Regiment. It sailed for Europe in October 1914 on the first Australasian troop convoy and with it was Trooper Alfred Thomas Winterton of Tenterfield in northern New South Wales.

This book traces Winterton's life and the fortunes of his Regiment, from Egypt to the bloody hills of Gallipoli and through the terrible fighting of May and August 1915, the stalemate that followed and the regiments evacuation in December of that year. It covers the Regiment's recall to active service in January 1916 to fight the Senussi Tribesmen who had penetrated upper Egypt from the west. It follows Winterton and his regiment to Romani on the Sinai Peninsula to counter the Turkish advance from Palestine.

It was at Romani that Winterton was killed while taking part in the first battle in which Anzac forces defeated the might of the Turkish army.

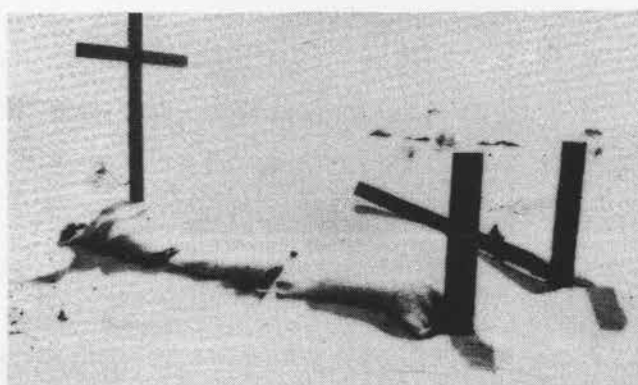
Had the Anzacs not succeeded at Romani the Suez Canal would have fallen. There would not have been the great Anzac victories at Beersheba and in Palestine and there would have been no legendary 40,000 horsemen.

This book is compulsory reading for all New England residents, Light Horse enthusiasts and anyone interested in Australian Military history.

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## "Six Bob A Day"

On the first day of September 1914 Alfred Winterton signed his enlistment papers and became a 'Six Bob a Day Tourist', the nickname given all soldiers of the period. 'Six Bob' was the amount that Australian soldiers were paid for each day of their military service. A 'bob' was slang for one 'shilling' which, in decimal currency, is equivalent to ten cents.



Transferred to

D

# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

CHARGE SECTION

No. 19

Rank *Private*

Name *Collis, J. L. S.*

Unit *1st Light Horse Regt*

202 Casualty *Wounded mild. Adm'd 6/8/16 1st Plat Hosp N.S.M.D. 532/6762 R Rec 11.8.16*

*Reported wounded 11.8.16. B.F. 6.806/6823. It ches 16.8.16 19.9.16. Discharged ex 3rd A.G.H. to Australia. H.D. 4818. No leave 12.9.16*

DATE.	PURPORT.	REF. NO.
13 AUG 1916	N. O. K. Advised Wounded and in Hospital	
21 AUG 1916	" " correct location of Hospital	
23 AUG 1916	N. O. K. Advised Wounded	
	Returning Australia H.M. "Ascanius". Left Suez 2.9.16. Dne Melbourne 29.9.16. B.F. 6.806/6823. B. Cairo 5.9.16.	
19 SEP 1916	N. O. K. Advised Returning to Australia	
22/9/16	COPY MADE FOR WAR PENSIONS	
29/9/16	Ret "Ascanius" from Egypt to 2nd M.D. Bronchitis, B.F.B. phthisis defective vision	
15.12.16	Discharged (M.V.) S.O.R.D. 2 "MD"	9682. 579/1 10.11.17/19

7014/1015 Star issued B.R.M. 43/1229/4031



WAR HISTORY INDEX



23

LIST.

Statement of Service No. 19

Name

Ellis John Lewis Spencer

Unit in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Period of service in each rank.		Remarks.
		From—	To—	
1 <sup>st</sup> Light Horse Regt	Driver	24-8-14		
	Proceeded to join M. S. L. Gallip Peninsula	9/5/15		
	Proceeded to join Western Front Force. Egypt.	14/1/16		G.R. 127-17-1.
	1 <sup>st</sup> H.R. Bounded. Romani.	4/8/16		B. 213. L. 4. 293. <sup>Pl 56/2372</sup> 16-8-16
	1 <sup>st</sup> A. Stat. Hosp. Adm. G. S. L. 1 <sup>st</sup> Chest: Ismailia	6/8/16		R. 11982 <sup>Pl 56/2372</sup> 16-8-16
	Trans to Base Hosp.	14/8/16		R. 12441. 06/4/2372
	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 A. G. H. Adm. G. S. L. V. R. 1 <sup>st</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> Abbasia	14/8/16		R. 12352.
	Trans to "Arcanios"	1/9/16		R. 13468.
	Embkd for Australia per Arcanios (Change) A. G. H. 1 <sup>st</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup> Roll 1 <sup>st</sup> Suez.	2/9/16		G.R. 127-3-45. 06/1/2693.
	Emb. at Suez			Pl 70 6/1/2693
	RETURN TO AUSTRALIA Per H.T. "Arcanios" For Change 4 months		2-9-16	12-9-16
	Discharged 2 <sup>nd</sup> M.O. (M.U.)		15-12-16	B. R. 274 Page 19

I have examined the above details, and find them correct in every respect.

Statement of Service of No. 19

Name

Ellis J. L. D.

Unit in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Period of service in each rank.		Remarks.
		From—	To—	
<u>1<sup>st</sup> U. S. Reg</u>	<u>Private</u> <u>Crew</u>	<u>24/8/14</u> <u>14/8/14</u>	<u>24/8/14</u>	<u>ROCP</u>
<u>29/9/16</u>	<u>Ret. Discharged for Egypt</u> <u>Bronchitis Phthisis Defective Vision</u> <u>Discharged (M.D.)</u>	<u>15/2/16</u> <u>16/12/16</u>	<u>15/2/16</u>	<u>69 B 680</u> <u>579/16</u> <u>44/19</u>

I have examined the above details, and find them correct in every respect.



Lauriston  
Guildford Rd  
Guildford  
- Sydney  
Sep. 2nd

To the Officer in charge

CHANGE OF ADDRESS  
NOTED FOR CAIRO & B. P. Ms.

Dear Sir

I saw in yesterday's Herald  
my husband's name in the list of  
wounded. It came as a shock to me, as  
that was the only notification I have had  
I made enquiries at the Red Cross  
Bureau & they advised me to write to  
you to see if you can give me any  
news as to nature of wound, & if in  
hospital, where? My husband's name &  
number are.

No 19. Driver John Lewis Spencer Collis  
1st Light Horse.

He enlisted from Waverley, since when I  
have moved to Guildford, & of course I  
notified the depot at once of change of  
address. Would be very glad if you could  
give me any more news. Yours in anticipation  
M. May Collis



Recd. 1916  
11. 10. 16



L.F.

7th September, 6.

86955

Dear Madam,

In reply to your inquiry of the 2nd instant, I have to inform you that your husband, No. 19 Driver J. L. S. Ellis, 1st Light Horse Regiment, is reported as having been wounded (mild) on 4/8/16 and admitted on 6/8/16 to the 1st Stationary Hospital, Egypt.

The above information was despatched by this branch to the address shown on your husband's records, viz., 55 Dennison Street, Waverley, N.S.W. No notification of your change of address had been received in this office. The records have now been amended and all future communications will be directed accordingly.

The nature of your husband's wound is at present unknown here, but, as it is stated to be mild, in the absence of further particulars favourable progress may be assumed.

Letters to this soldier should be addressed, for the present, as under:-

WOUNDED.

No. 19 Driver J. L. S. Ellis,  
1st Light Horse Regiment,  
1st Light Horse Brigade,  
Anzac Mounted Division,  
Australian Imperial Force,  
EGYPT.

Yours faithfully,

Major,  
Officer i/c Base Records.

Mrs. M. M. Ellis,  
"Lauriston",  
Guildford Road,  
Guildford, SYDNEY, N.S.W.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

M.B.

Base Records Office, A.I.M.F.  
Victoria Barracks.

MELBOURNE 13th August, 1916.

Dear Madam,

I regret to advise you that information has been received to the effect that No. 19 Driver J. L. S. Ellis, is now in the 1st Stationary Hospital, France 6/8/16, Wounded (mild)

His postal address will therefore be:-

No. 19 Driver J. L. S. Ellis,  
Wounded, ~~France~~  
1st Light Horse Regiment,  
C/o Australian Imperial Force Headquarters,  
130 Horseferry Road,  
Westminster, LONDON. S.W.

Any further particulars coming to hand will be promptly transmitted

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. M. M. Ellis,  
55 Dennison Street,  
WAVERLEY. N.S.W.

J. M. LEAN. Major,  
Officer i/c Base Records.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Rv.

BASE RECORDS OFFICE, A.I.M.F.  
VICTORIA BARRACKS.

Melbourne. 21st Aug., 1916.

Dear Madam,

Referring to the information forwarded to you on the 13th inst. it is regretted that the location of the hospital in which Driver A.L.S. Ellis, is reported to be in, was stated in error, as it is situated in Egypt not France. His correct address for the present will therefore be :-

No. 19 Driver J.L.S. Ellis,

Wounded, 1st Light Horse Regiment,

Australian Imperial Force,  
A b r o a d.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. M.M. Ellis,  
55 Dennison St.,  
WAVERLEY. NSW.

J. M. LEAN Major.  
Officer i/c Base Records.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Department of Defence,

D.H.

MELBOURNE.

19th Sept. 1916

Dear Madam,

I am in receipt of cable advice to the effect that  
No. 19, Driver J.L.S. Ellis, 1st Light Horse Regiment,  
is returning to Australia and is due in SYDNEY about the  
end of September, 1916. It is regretted that the movements  
or name of the transport on which he is arriving cannot be  
disclosed.

It is to be noted that owing to possible mutilations in  
the cabled advice and other causes this notification may not be  
correct pending verification from the roll on arrival of the  
Troopship.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. M.A. Ellis,

"Lauriston"

Guildford Road,

GUILDFORD, SYDNEY N.S.W.

J. M. LEAN.

Major,  
Officer i/c Base Records.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

W.F.

BASE RECORDS OFFICE,

Victoria Barracks,

Melbourne, August 23rd 1916

Dear Madam,

In continuation of my ~~letter of~~ letter of 21st instant

I have to inform you that advice has now been received which shows  
No. 19 Driver J.L.S. Ellis, 1st L. H. Regt., was wounded  
in action on the 4th instant.

Should any further reports be received concerning him they will be  
promptly transmitted.

Mrs. M. M. Ellis,

55 Dennison St.,

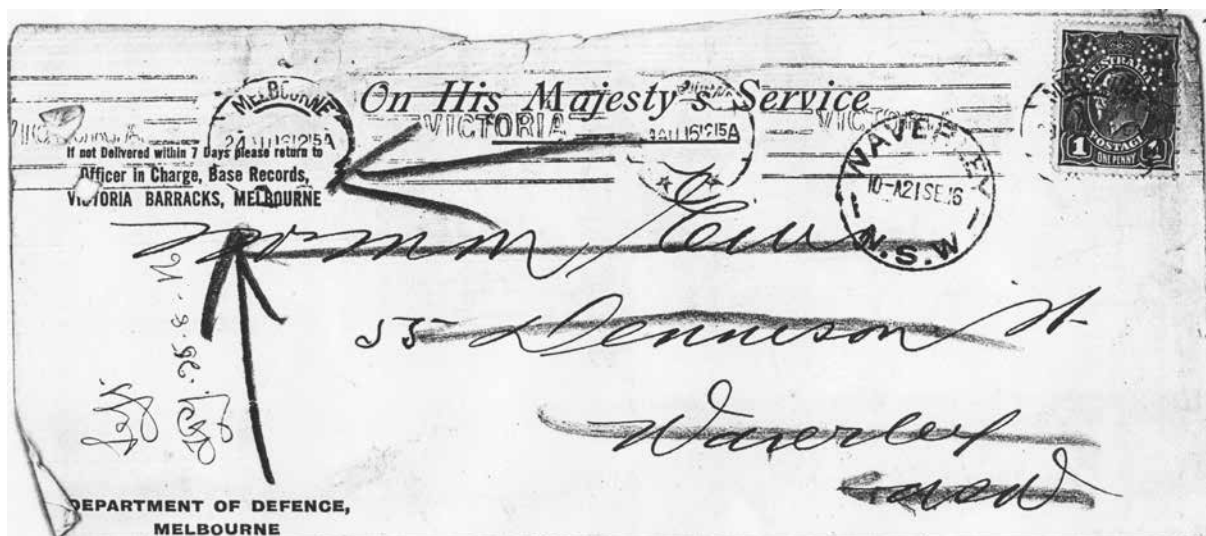
Waverley NSW.

C.120

Yours faithfully,

J. M. LEAN, Captain,

Officer in charge Base Records.



## John Ellis – Medical Case Sheet

This is a transcript of the Medical Case Sheet, Army Form I. 1237, hand written by Captain A.J. Cahill (presumably a Medical Officer), on 17th August 1916.

Regimental No	19
Rank:	Tpr (Trooper)
Surname:	Ellis
Christian Names	John Lewis Spencer
Unit	1st Light Horse
Age:	42
Service:	24/12
Disease	Subacute Conjunctivitis
Station & Date:	SAGH Cairo

Was wounded in the ankle by shrapnel 11 days ago at Romani and spent 11 days in the Hospital at Ismailia. Eyes have been troubling him for some weeks past on the Desert. Has worn Reading glasses for the last 7 years and recently has had his glasses smashed. Now feels rather helpless without them. No previous eye trouble in Australia. Enlisted at Sydney N.S.W. August 1914. Former occupation - Engineer

O? - Subacute Conjunctivitis present with matter in the corners.

V = 6/12 in each eye. Difficult to improve with any lens for Distance

Reading - R +1.5 Sph  
L +1.5 Sph

Ophthalmoscope - Both Discs and Fluids Hazy from "Sun Glare" and Retinitis. Photophobia present. Chlorophyll glasses ordered for Distance and above Correction for Reading.

17/8/16 Too weak to go in for his glasses yesterday. Complaining of a sharp "stabbing" pain behind his left shoulder-blade last night. Felt it most when he took a long breath. Has had a cough with expectoration for some weeks past and is losing weight rapidly. Crepitations heard over Rt. Apex posteriorly (?) Phthisis. To be transferred to Medical Ward.

Signed A.J. Cahill. Capt.

## Medical report on an invalid

This is a transcript of the handwritten report compiled during August 1916

Station	No 3 Australian General Hospital Egypt
Date	August 21st 1916
1. Unit	1st Austn. Light Horse
2. Regimental No.	19
3. Rank	Trooper
4. Name	Ellis, John Lewis Spencer
5. Age last birthday	42 years
6. Enlisted on	August 1914 at Sydney NSW
7. Former trade	Engineer
8. Disability	Bronchitis? Phthisis? Defective Eyesight
9. Date of origin of disability	April 1916
10. Place of origin of disability	Romani Egypt
11. Essential facts	Arrived in Egypt with the first contingent. Had pneumonia 25 years ago. Arrival at Gallipoli with the original Light Horse arrival. Was there 3 weeks came back with horses. Was

	wounded at Romani August 1916 with Shrapnell in right leg just above the ankle. Admitted No 3 AGH 14-8-16 with his wound. After examination found he had Bronchitis? Phthisis? Defective Eyesight.
12a. Opinion of disability cause	Active Service
12b. Specific conditions	Strain & Exposure
13. Present condition	He has been on active service all the time and requires a spell. He has a little harsh breathing over the base of right lung with Bronchitis Rales. Night Sweats. Underweight. Lost weight. Has a little sputum which is negative for TB. His eyesight is also defective & has been treated by Capt. Cahill. Weight 9 1/2 stone
14 to 18	Not applicable
19. Do you recommend	
(a) Discharge as perm. unfit	No
(b) Delete.	
Signed Officer in charge of case D. Gwynne-Hughes. Capt.	
Station Abbann.	
Date 21 Aug 1916	

#### Opinion of the Medical Board

20 a. Cause of disability	Active Service
20 b. Specific conditions	Strain & exposure
21. Disability aggravated by:	
(a) Intemperance	)
(b) Misconduct	) No
(c) Other conditions	)
22 Is the disability permanent?	No
23 Probable duration	6 months
24 Livelihood earning capacity	1/2
24a. Rejection of Nat. Insurance	Would defer
25 Recommend:	
(a) Discharge perm unfit	
(b) Change to England?	Change to Australia

Signed	Chas C Macknight Lt Col
	G B Howe. Capt
	D. Gwynne-Hughes Capt
	D L Mackenzie Major

Station 3rd AGH  
Date 21.8.1916

# AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

[Form No. 4.]

## MEDICAL HISTORY

OF

Surname: Ellis Christian Name: John Lewis Spencer

Examined: { On <u>24</u> day of <u>August</u> , 191 <u>4</u> At <u>Sydney N.S.W.</u>	Approved by _____ Medical Officer, _____
Birthplace: { Town, <u>Aberquhill</u> Country, <u>South Wales England</u>	Examined for re-engagement: _____ day of _____, 191 <u>4</u>
Declared age: <u>34 1/2</u> years	* Considered: _____
Trade or occupation: <u>Engineer &amp; Fitter</u>	_____ Medical Officer, _____
Height <u>5</u> ft. <u>6 1/2</u> in.	* If unfit, state disability.
Weight <u>95</u> lb.	Re-vaccinated on _____ day of _____, 191 <u>4</u>
Chest measurement: { Minimum, <u>33 1/2</u> in. Maximum expansion <u>36 1/2</u> in.	Arm: _____ Number: _____
Physical development: _____	Result: _____
Small-pox marks: _____	_____ Medical Officer, _____
Vaccination marks: { Right. Left. Arm, <u>Left</u> Number, _____	
When vaccinated: _____	
Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease: _____ _____ _____	

Enlisted on 24 day of August, 1914, at Rosebery N.S.W.

	Corps.	Regimental No.	Date.
Joined on enlistment ...	<u>Light Horse Regiment</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>24-8-14</u>
Transferred to ...			

### PROPOSED FOR DISCHARGE BY A MEDICAL BOARD.

Station.	Date.	Disease.	Result.

N.B. — This sheet to be disposed of in accordance with instructions in the Regulations for Army Medical Services on the man becoming non-effective, the date and cause being stated at the foot of next page.

MEDICAL CASE SHEET.

REGD. NO.	RANK.	SURNAME.	CHRISTIAN NAME
.....	.....	.....	.....
	UNIT.	AGE.	SERVICE.
	.....	.....	.....

NO. 3 A.G.H.

DATE. 18-8-16

*Bronchitis ? phthisis?*

*Transferred from E Ward 18-8-16.*

*Examined Chest has no dullness by percussion. He has heard his own breathing over the base of right lung. Has Bronchitic Rale over the base. He complains of night sweat. Slight phlegm which has been tested & found negative for TB. Chest TB.*

*Anger 20° Better. (Note for phthisis?)*

*He is charged to Australia*

*Relieved*

*Whymore - Hyper fever*

- 16



## MEDICAL CASE SHEET.\*

No. in Admission and Discharge Book.	Regimental No.	Rank.	Surname.	Christian Name.
	19	Thr	Ellis	John Lewis Spencer
Year 1916		Unit. 1st Light Horse	Age. 42	Service. 24/12
Station and Date. S.A.S.H. Cairo	Disease <i>Subacute conjunctivitis</i>			
Treatment. Irrigation of eye with sterile solution of sodium bichromate solution of sodium bichromate	<p>was wounded in the ankle by a bullet 11 days ago at Romani and spent 10 days in the Hospital at Dmailia. He has been troubling him for some weeks past on the Desert. He has some Reading-glasses of the last 7 years &amp; recently had his glasses smashed. Now feels rather helpless without them. No previous eye-trouble in Australia. Wounded at Sydney N.S.W. August 1914.</p> <p>Former Occupation - Engineer.</p> <p>O.E. - Subacute conjunctivitis present &amp; matter in the corners.</p> <p>V. = <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> in each eye. Difficult to improve with any lens for Distance.</p> <p>Reading - R. +1.5 D. L. +1.5 D.</p> <p>Ophthalmoscope - Both Discs &amp; Fundi hazy from "sun-flare" &amp; Retinitis. Photophobia present. Chlorophyll glasses ordered for Distance and above Correction for Reading.</p> <p>A.B.</p>			
Glasses ordered.	<p>17/8/16 Too weak to go in for his glasses yesterday. Complaining of a sharp "stabbing" pain behind his Rt. Shoulder-blade last night. Felt it most when he took a long breath. Has had a Cough &amp; expectoration for some weeks past and is losing weight rapidly. Crepitation heard over Rt. Apex.</p>			

\*The first and last entries will be signed, and transfers from one Medical Officer to another, attested by their signatures.  
(J 5521.) Wt. W 5506-2521. 2,000,000. 7/15. D & R.  
To medical board. J. G. A. Hill, Capt.

Bd.

5626



OCT - 1 1916

Army Form B. 179.

Matheson  
Matheson

Medical Report on an Invalid.

Station <sup>703</sup> Aust. Genl. Hospital Egypt

Date August 21st 1916

1. Unit 1st Aust. Light Horse  
2. Regimental No. 19  
3. Rank Trooper  
4. Name ELLIS, JOHN LEWIS SPENCER  
5. Age last birthday 42 years  
6. Enlisted { on August 1914  
                  { at Lydney NSW  
Former Trade { Engineer  
or Occupation {

8. Disability.

Bronchitis ? Phthisis ? Defective eyesight

Statement of Case.

Note.—The answers to the following questions are to be filled in by the Officer in medical charge of the case. In answering them he will carefully discriminate between the man's unsupported statements and evidence recorded in his military and medical documents. He will also carefully distinguish cases entirely due to venereal disease.

9. Date of origin of disability. April 1916  
10. Place of origin of disability. Romani Egypt

11. Give concisely the essential facts of the history of the disability, noting entries on the Medical History Sheet bearing on the case.  
Arrived in Egypt with the first contingent Had pneumonia 25 yrs ago - Arrived with the original command. Was there 3 weeks came back with wounds - was awarded at Romani August 4 1916 with Shrapnel in the right leg just above the ankle. Admitted W.D.A.M. 14-8-16 with his wound. After examination found behind Bronchitis ? Phthisis ? Defective eyesight



12. (a) Give your opinion as to the causation of the disability.  
(b) If you consider it to have been caused by active service, climate, or ordinary military service, explain the specific conditions to which you attribute it (See notes on page 3).

Active Service  
Strain + Exhaustion

13. What is his present condition?

*Weight should be given in all cases when it is likely to afford evidence of the progress of the disability.*

*He has been on active Service all the time & requires a spell - He has a little harsh breathing over the base of right lung with Bronchitic Rales Night Sweats lost weight. Has a little Shute which is Negative for T.B. His eyesight is also defective has been treated by faps of chills - begins 9k stone*

14. If the disability is an injury, was it caused

- (a) In action?
- (b) On field service?
- (c) On duty?
- (d) Off duty?

15. Was a Court of Inquiry held on the injury?

If so—(a) When?

(b) Where?

(c) Opinion?

16. Was an operation performed? If so, what?

17. If not, was an operation advised and declined?

18. In case of loss or decay of teeth. Is the loss of teeth the result of wounds, injury or disease, directly\* attributable to active service?

19. Do you recommend

- (a) Discharge as permanently unfit, or
- (b) ~~Change to England?~~

*Not applicable*

*No*

*Deveraux - Hughes*

Officer in medical charge of case.

I have satisfied myself of the general accuracy of this report, and concur therewith, except†

Station

*Abham*

Date

*21 AUG 1916*

*M. Howard*  
Officer in charge of Hospital.

*Colonel*

\* Loss of teeth on, or immediately after, active service, should be attributed thereto, unless there is evidence that it is due to some other cause.

† Delete this word if no exceptions are to be made.

## Opinion of the Medical Board.

**Notes.**—(i.) Clear and decisive answers to the following questions are to be carefully filled in by the Board, as, in the event of the man being invalided, it is essential that the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital should be in possession of the most reliable information to enable them to decide upon the man's claim to pension.

(ii.) Expressions such as "may," "might," "probably," &c., should be avoided.

(iii.) The rates of pension vary directly according to whether the disability is attributed to (a) active service, (b) climate, or (c) ordinary military service. It is therefore essential when assigning the cause of the disability to differentiate between them (*see* Articles 1162 and 1165, Pay Warrant, 1913).

(iv.) In answering question 20 the Board should be careful to discriminate between disease resulting from military conditions and disease to which the soldier would have been equally liable in civil life.

(v.) A disability is to be regarded as due to climate when it is caused by military service abroad in climates where there is a special liability to contract the disease.

20. (a) State whether the disability is the result of (i.) active service, (ii.) climate, or (iii.) ordinary military service.

(b) If due to one of these causes, to what specific conditions do the Board attribute it?

*Active service*  
*Strain occurrance*

21. Has the disability been aggravated by

(a) Intemperance?

(b) Misconduct?

(c) Any of the conditions mentioned in Question 20, and if so which?

*No*

22. Is the disability permanent?

*No*

23. If not permanent, what is its probable minimum duration?

*six months*

To be stated in months.

24. To what extent is his capacity for earning a full livelihood in the general labour market lessened at present?

$\frac{1}{2}$

In defining the extent of his inability to earn a livelihood, estimate it at  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$ , or total incapacity.

24A. Is the man suffering from a disability which would obviously, as far as you can judge, cause him to be rejected by an Approved Society under the National Insurance Act?

*would defr*

25. If an operation was advised and declined, was the refusal unreasonable?

26. Do the Board recommend

(a) Discharge as permanently unfit, or

(b) Change to England?

*Change to Australia*

Signatures:—

*379 A. G. H.*

*Chas. Macknight 2nd Lt* President.

Station

Date

*21. 8.16* *W. G. H. M. J. H. G. H. G. H.*

Approved.

Station

Date



*W. G. H. M. J. H. G. H. G. H.* MAJOR. FOR D.M.S. Administrative Medical Officer.

17/9/55  
"HQA"

"HQ"

Signature of Officer i/c Records.

Lieut.  
Australian Records Section.  
3rd Echelon, G.H.Q., B.M.F.

[P.T.O.]



(On leaving Corps or Station where invalided.)

Transfer { Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Station \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
Embark- { Date \_\_\_\_\_  
ation { Port \_\_\_\_\_

Name { Conveyance \_\_\_\_\_  
of { Vessel \_\_\_\_\_  
{ Officer in }  
{ medical charge }

Brief remarks on case during transit, and state on transfer for final disposal.

Re-transferred { Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Hospital or { Station \_\_\_\_\_  
Station { Officer in medical charge.

(At Station or Hospital where finally disposed of.)

Station and { No 4, R.G. H Sydney NSWales  
Hospital {  
Arrived from Egypt Date 1. 10. 16

If admitted	If under treatment		Disease	How finally disposed of	Date of Discharge, &c.
	Date	From To			
12. 11. 16 W.H.K. 1/10/16	1/10/16	12/10/16	Brachitis (Chronic)	Discharged	13. 10. 16.

Detailed statement as to condition on discharge and whether discharged as an invalid, to corps, to station, or to depôt. In cases of discharge from the service it should be stated whether the answers to questions 22, 23 and 24 are concurred in.

Brachitis (Chronic)  
Concur with 21+22  
Incapable 1/4

CONFIRMED  
FOR DISCHARGE.

SYDNEY, E. S. 8/16  
DATE 16. 10. 16 COLONEL.  
F. M. O. 2ND. M. D.

Date of final Medical  
Board, or decision

13/10/16

Administrative Medical Officer.

The original Report is invariably to accompany the  
discharge documents of Invalids.  
(4736.) W. 8530/2774. 650x. 9/15. C. P. Ltd.  
Form  
B. 179.  
34.

Station \_\_\_\_\_  
Corps \_\_\_\_\_  
Regimental No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Rank \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Disability \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Hospital or Station transferred to for final disposal \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of final disposal \_\_\_\_\_  
How finally disposed of \_\_\_\_\_

MEDICAL REPORT ON AN  
INVALID.

Army Form B. 179.



# Australian Military Forces.

2nd Military District.

VICTORIA BARRACKS,

SYDNEY, DEC 19 1916

OFFICER IN CHARGE,

BASE RECORDS,

VICTORIA BARRACKS,

MELBOURNE.

19. Driver. Ellis. J.L.S. 1st L.H.

*Re 74 at*

The above mentioned Returned Soldier was discharged from the Australian Imperial

Force in consequence of medical unfitness on 15. 12. 16. 19

Documents relating to this man's discharge forwarded herewith completed.

*E. A. Sloan*

Captain.

Staff Officer, Returned Soldiers,

2nd Military District.





Certificate of Discharge of No. 19 (Rank) *Private*  
 (Name) *John Lewis Spencer Ellis*  
 (Regiment or Corps) *1st Horse*  
 The Commanding Officer while serving in the *Australian*  
*1st Horse* has been, according to the Records:—  
*Good*  
 Special Qualifications:  
 Place *London*  
 Date *1916*  
 of Officer *E. W. Saul* Captain  
 Commanding Regiment *Staff Officer Returned Soldiers*  
 Corps  
 Description of the above-named Soldier on discharge:—  
 Height *5'8"*  
 Complexion *Fair* Eyes *Blue*  
 Trade *Engineer*  
 Scars, whether on face or other parts of body:  
 Intended place of residence *Weymouth*  
*Weymouth*

N.B.—ANY PERSON FINDING THIS DOCUMENT LOST SHOULD REPORT IT TO THE NEAREST HEAD-QUARTERS



**This was the family home established by John & Mary May after his discharge from WW1st AIF service in December 1916. The house was in Fowler Road Guildford, adjacent to Pipe Head water supply pipe line.**

**Left to right in the photo are Dorothy Eliza Martyn, Dorothy nee Crawford Martyn, Mrs Brind (unknown), infant Rita, May Ellis, Mary May nee Martyn Ellis, John Lewis Spencer Ellis.**

## John Ellis – War Pension

This Table shows the war pensions which were paid to John Ellis & his family subsequent to his medical discharge from the AIF on 15 December 1916. Copies of the records from which this table has been created are in this chapter. There is no explanation of the successive quite rapid decreases, and there is no evidence of how long his pension continued after 28 February 1918.

It is pure speculation, but a possible explanation of the pension reductions lies in the nature of his medical condition upon discharge. Although wounded and hospitalised, his wound was classified as minor. The major reason for medical discharge was chronic bronchitis. It is quite possible that convalescence during the period December 1916 through February 1918 assisted in his bronchial condition diminishing or even disappearing altogether.

The amounts are fortnightly payments expressed in Pounds, Shillings and Pence. Accompanying each amount and in brackets is the year 2001 equivalent in buying power expressed in Dollars and Cents to give a feel for the value of the pension paid in those years.

### 16 December 1916

John	3/2/0 (\$195–\$61)
Mary May	1/1/10 (\$97–\$81)
Rita	1/0/0 (\$63–\$10)
Total	5/13/0 (\$356–\$32)

### 21 June 1917

John	1/11/10 (\$92–\$60)
Mary May	15/6 (\$46–\$30)
Rita	10/0 (\$29–\$87)
Total	2/16/6 (\$168–\$77)

### 28 February 1918

John	1/0/6 (\$57–\$40)
Mary May	10/3 (\$28–\$28)
Rita	6/6 (\$18–\$20)
Total	1/17/3 (\$103–\$88)

1. Full name, number, rank, and unit of Member of Forces in respect of whose death or incapacity pension was claimed ... ..	Ellis, John Lewis Spencer: 19 Dvr., 1st L.H
2. Full name and address of person for whom pension was claimed ... ..	Self : Guildford
3. Relationship of such person to Member ...	
4. Result of Claim ... ..	£3:2/- p.f granted from 16:12:16.
5. Name and address of Trustee (if any) ...	

1. Full name, number, rank, and unit of Member of Forces in respect of whose death or incapacity pension was claimed ...	Ellis. John Lewis Spencer: 19 Dvr., 1st L.H
2. Full name and address of person for whom pension was claimed ...	Ellis, Mary May: "Mableville" Guildford Rd
3. Relationship of such person to Member ...	Wife Guildford.
4. Result of Claim ...	£1:11/- p.f. granted from 16:12:16
5. Name and address of Trustee (if any) ...	

1. Full name, number, rank, and unit of Member of Forces in respect of whose death or incapacity pension was claimed ...	As above
2. Full name and address of person for whom pension was claimed ...	Ellis. Rita May: as above
3. Relationship of such person to Member ...	Child
4. Result of Claim ...	£1 p.f. granted from 16:12:16
5. Name and address of Trustee (if any) ...	Ellis, Mary May : as above

D.064/S.16.—C.0656.—10M.

*Deputy Commissioner of Pensions at Sydney*

*Attachment 347 W.S.10*

1. Full name, number, rank, and unit of Member of Forces in respect of whose death or incapacity pension was claimed ...	Drysdale, Minnie
2. Full name and address of person for whom pension was claimed ...	Ellis, John Lewis Spencer - 19, Dvr., 1st.L.H.
3. Relationship of such person to Member ...	Self - Guildford, N.S.W.
4. Result of Claim ...	
5. Name and address of Trustee (if any) ...	Pension of 62/- p.f. amended to 31/- as from 21/6/17

1. Full name, number, rank, and unit of Member of Forces in respect of whose death or incapacity pension was claimed ...	As Above
2. Full name and address of person for whom pension was claimed ...	Ellis, Mary May - As Above
3. Relationship of such person to Member ...	Wife
4. Result of Claim ...	Pension of 31/- p.f. amended to 15/6 as from 21/6/17
5. Name and address of Trustee (if any) ...	

1. Full name, number, rank, and unit of Member of Forces in respect of whose death or incapacity pension was claimed ...	As Above
2. Full name and address of person for whom pension was claimed ...	Ellis, Rita May - As Above
3. Relationship of such person to Member ...	Child
4. Result of Claim ...	Pension of £1 p.f. amended to 10/- as from 21/6/17
5. Name and address of Trustee (if any) ...	Ellis, Mary May

D.064/S.16.—C.0656.—10M.

*Deputy Commissioner of Pensions at Sydney*



1. Full name, number, rank, and unit of Member of Forces in respect of whose death or incapacity pension was claimed.	Ellis, John Lewis Spencer, 19, Dvr., 1st L.H.
2. Name and address of person for whom pension was claimed.	Self - Guildford.
3. Relationship of such person to Member	
4. Result of Claim	Pension of 31/- p.f. amended to 20/6 p.f. from 26/2/18.
5. Name and Address of Trustee (if any)	GUILDFORD

D.264/8.17.-C.1132-4/17.

*For the Member*  
Deputy Commissioner of Pensions at Sydney.

*Statement. 577 12/3/18 NSW.*

*1917 Section*

WAR PENSION STATEMENT NO. 577 DATED 12/3/18  
VICtoria. New South Wales

WAR PENSIONS ACT 1914-1916. Form Z.3.

**DAILY STATEMENT (MILITARY)**

Showing Grants, Alterations, and Cancellations of Pensions (together with date from which such action took effect); also Rejections of Claims and Deaths of Pensioners.

Statement No. 577  
Containing 20 sheets.  
Date 12/3/18.

State of New South Wales.

1. Full name, number, rank, and unit of Member of Forces in respect of whose death or incapacity pension was claimed.	Ellis, John Lewis Spencer, 19, Dvr., 1st L.H.
2. Full name and address of person for whom pension was claimed.	Ellis, Mary May, Guildford.
3. Relationship of such person to Member	Wife
4. Result of Claim	Pension of 15/6 p.f. amended to 10/3 p.f. from 29/2/18.
5. Name and address of Trustee (if any)	GUILDFORD.

1. Full name, number, rank, and unit of Member of Forces in respect of whose death or incapacity pension was claimed.	As above
2. Full name and address of person for whom pension was claimed.	Ellis, Rita May, as above
3. Relationship of such person to Member	Child
4. Result of Claim	Pension of 10/- p.f. amended to 6/6 p.f. from 28/2/18
5. Name and address of Trustee (if any)	Ellis, Mary May - as above GUILD FORD

12 Minerva Avenue  
Vincentia NSW 2540  
Tel 02 4441 6992  
email: [stevegeorge@shoalhaven.net.au](mailto:stevegeorge@shoalhaven.net.au)  
November 30, 2001

To: "Ellis" book holders  
From: George Stevens

Hi folks,

I think that the following update will be of interest to you.

Recently, in researching the WW1 battlefield history of one of my great uncles Arthur Anderson, I met a man by name of Bob Young, an ex RAN submariner and an enthusiastic war historian. In conversation I lent Bob a copy of our book "Ellis" which he read from cover to cover about 4 times. Having studied all that I had recorded, Bob ventured the opinion that John Ellis did not suicide, and to give credence to his opinion he offered a rationale which I have included below. In listening to Bob I agreed he had some valid points, but countered with my opinion that his "evidence" was all circumstantial. Bob is a man who is not to be diverted from his set course. So he then set about ferreting out some real evidence. Bob drove his car to Parramatta (about 200 km from where we live in Vincentia), and patiently went through archive newspaper records to find a newspaper article which I have reproduced and attached to this letter. The contents of this are quite revealing.

As well, Bob has interpreted most of the hand written medical scribbled notes which I was unable to decipher when I put the book together. If you refer to pages 34 & 35 of the book, you will see a number of entries where I have simply put a series of question marks. Attached to this letter is a separate page with Bob's interpretations. I suggest that you stick this attached page inside the cover of your copy of the book.

Bob's rationale that John did not suicide goes something like this:

In 1923 there was high unemployment. The Communist Party was starting to become a disturbing element. Billy Hughes' popularity was in decline. The long promised WW1 medals had still not been issued, (although distribution was imminent). Many ex servicemen became involved in demonstrations and minor riots. So the atmosphere was one which tended to increase the anger and frustration in diggers who felt their contribution to the British war effort was not being appropriately recognised. However, low interest housing loans had been made available to returned diggers, and John would likely have been a recipient of one of these. John had a 25% pension, so there was some money coming in regularly. So although John was very likely one of the thousands of disgruntled veterans, the underlying causes were certainly not sufficient reason for suicide.

John was unwell. His eyesight had deteriorated, and he suffered respiratory problems, probably as a result of his pneumonia. He may even have had emphysema. It is also possible that his leg wound may have caused a level of discomfort, even pain. But he was a fighter. He was not one to give up easily. So here was a sick man, living in an environment of social unrest. But Bob could see nothing to support the argument that John was in such deep depression that he felt he had to end it all.

Bob asked "Why would John choose to suicide during the visit of his sister from New Zealand?" Reasonably he would be pleased to see her, or at least be neutral about her presence. It is very unlikely that her presence contributed in any way towards a suicide.

He then asked, "Why would John choose to suicide just 2 days prior to ANZAC Day? At this time and in this environment, ex diggers would be looking forward to getting together again. As well, angry men typically don't retreat, they hit out."

Bob then considered Granville railway station. Granville railway station is at a rail junction,

some trains going towards Penrith and others going in a different direction through Guildford towards Liverpool. Granville station is near to the Rosehill Racecourse, and also near to what was the Clyde Railway Marshalling Yards. Was John attending a race meeting on the day of his death, or was he coming home from work in the Railway Yards? (Remember that John had been employed by the NZ Railways earlier in his life.) Bob thought that here were two possible logical reasons why John was at Granville station, and neither suggests a premeditated selected scene for suicide.

Putting all the foregoing factors together, Bob concluded that although John was suffering some physical problems, he was certainly not so emotionally disturbed to take his own life. Bob further postulated that on that afternoon of the 23rd of April 1923, the combined effects of his medical condition had caused him to lose his balance and to fall under an oncoming train. In an attempt to prove his theory, Bob undertook the previously mentioned visit to Parramatta.

Well, as you will read in the attached copy of the newspaper article, those of us who believed that John had suicided, were completely incorrect. Bob Young, an outsider looking in and assessing the facts correctly guessed an accidental death.

Note: This newspaper article was published in the "Cumberland Argus", page 2 on Wednesday 25th April 1923. It states that the accident occurred on Saturday evening. Saturday would have been the 21st of April, but John's death is recorded as the 23rd. So this is yet another anomaly that needs resolving.

Cheers

George

### **Bob Young – Logical Thinker**

Bob Young is a member, as am I, of the Huskisson R.S.L. Bob became intrigued with my account of the Ellis family, and after studying the book for a couple of weeks, came up with the conviction that John Ellis did not suicide.

Bob provided 4 logical reasons why John did not suicide such as:

- \* Why would he take his life during ANZAC week? Typically ex diggers get together on ANZAC Day.

- \* Why would he choose that day to suicide when his sister had only just arrived to visit from New Zealand.

- \* Yes John was an angry man because of his perceived inequities of treatment to returned servicemen. But typically angry men don't retreat, they get up and fight.

- \* John had a partial pension, he was living in his own house with his family, so he was far from being destitute or uncared for.

In summary, Bob saw absolutely no reason to believe the Martyn family lore that John had taken his own life.

I argued with Bob that his evidence was all supposition, and that the family lore, if not absolutely correct, was close to the truth.

Bob is an ex submariner, and knows how to dig his toes in. The next day he climbed into his car and drove 230 km to the Sydney suburb of Parramatta, where he spent some hours going through newspaper archives, until he came up with an article, published in the Cumberland "Argus" Wednesday 25 April 1923. A copy is attached.

This put a completely different complexion on the whole story of John, who is now perceived by family members in a quite different light.



# Fatality at Granville.

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## Guildford Man's Death.

---

A shocking accident happened on Saturday evening at Granville, which resulted in the death of John Ellis, a much esteemed resident of Guildford, who succumbed to the frightful injuries he received through being run over by the Penrith train which leaves Granville about 7.30 p.m.

Mr. Ellis, who is employed at the G.P.O., travelled by that train from Sydney. He was in the third car from the engine, and did not realise until the train commenced to move out that it was a west bound one, and that it was necessary for him to change. The car which he had occupied was already clear of the platform, and, in attempting to alight, an umbrella which he was carrying got caught between his legs, and he fell under the train, the wheels of several carriage passing over him before it could be brought to a standstill.

Mr. Solomons, driver of the Parramatta-Guildford 'bus, who was one of the first to reach the unfortunate man, said he was attracted by some men calling out "There must be someone under the train." He said it was a terrible shock to find that it was his old friend, Jack Ellis. He was conscious when picked up, and asked Mr. Solomons if there was anything the matter with his arm. He was attended to by the Auburn District Ambulance, which conveyed him to the Parramatta District Hospital. No hope, however, could be held out for his recovery, both legs and the right arm being completely severed, and he died at ten o'clock the same night.

Mr. Ellis was a South African veteran, and also saw service in the great war. On returning from the front, the Guildford Voluntary Workers' Association built him a cottage in Fowler-avenue, where he had been happily residing with his wife and child. Much sorrow is felt in the Guildford district for his wife and relatives.

1923

Number.	Name of Deceased.	Date when held.	Where held.	Coroner or Magistrate before whom held.	Date when Received.
	John Lewis Spencer Ellis		Paramatta	H.R. Clark, J.P.	

Where Born.	Locality of Death.	Verdict.	Cash or Property possessed by Deceased.	Medical.	
				Doctor's Name.	Whether Post Mortem - Held.
Wales.	Rochester Hospital, Paramatta.	Injuries accidentally received through alighting from a train while in motion and falling between the carriages and platform and having been run over by the former.	£5000 Current & £500 Life Policy	Dr. H. H. H. H.	No

“Injuries accidentally received through alighting from a train while in motion and falling between the carriages and platform and having been run over by the former.

“Abt. £500 & £40 life policy”

## Chapter 2. Mary May Ellis née Martyn

Mary May Martyn was born in Olyphant Pennsylvania USA on 1 May 1874 to John Martyn, a Cornish miner, and Dorothy Crawford, daughter of a Stockton Pa miner. The first documentary evidence we have of Mary May is her Baptismal Certificate, a copy of which is included in this chapter. Interestingly the date on this certificate is February 4th 1877, when Mary May was almost 3 years of age.

On 16 April 1877, John and Dorothy with their three children Minnie Maud, Mary May and Reginald Ralph Sleeman migrated from New York in the sailing ship “Annie H. Smith” to Sydney Australia, arriving on 19 July 1877.

For the first 2 years the family lived in Balmain, then moved to Stawell Victoria where John had secured a job as manager of the “New Era” quartz mine. The *Stawell News* dated 2 August 1882 reported that at State School 502 during the Prize Giving, Mary Martyn received Fourth Prize, 1st Division, 1st Class. Mary May would have been 8 years of age and no doubt very proud of her achievement.

The family departed Stawell some time prior to 1887 and settled in Waterloo for a brief period. John then was appointed manager of the Mount Dromedary Gold mine at Tilba Tilba, and the family moved there in 1891. At this time Mary May would have been 17 years of age.

Except for one specific period between February 1901 and about mid 1902, nothing is known exactly about what Mary May did. At one stage she did work for a Central Tilba retail store called Crapp & Boxsells, but for how long and in what capacity is not known. We do know she was living in the Tilba district in 1904, as is evidenced by the group photo and attendance list for the Montague Island picnic (see copies in this chapter). The period February 1901 through about mid 1902 was when she worked as a nanny to the infant Willie of a wealthy couple Mr & Mrs Shaugham, and was fortunate enough to travel with them around the world. A verbatim transcript of Mary May’s diary recording her experiences is included in this chapter.

The next known event in Mary May’s life is her marriage in Huntly NZ to John Lewis Spencer Ellis on 10th June 1908. Mary May would have been 34 years of age then. How Mary and John came together is completely unknown. Nothing in fact is known of their life in NZ.

The next known event is the birth of their only child, Rita May, at Waverley NSW on 22 June 1914. It was shortly after this that John volunteered for overseas military service in the 1st AIF (see chapter 1). When John left Australia for overseas, Mary May and Rita moved in with her mother Dorothy, initially at 55 Dennison Street Waverley and subsequently at a house called “Lauriston” in Guildford Road Guildford. This was situated on the left hand side of Guildford road proceeding west towards Fowler Road, and almost opposite Clyde Street. The site is now in 2001 occupied by an incredibly ugly red brick block of units.

Between October 1914 and October 1916 Mary May saw nothing of her husband who was half a world away, and when he did return, his physical health had deteriorated. There is much anecdotal evidence to suggest that as well, John’s emotional state had suffered, and that as a consequence, he mistreated his wife and child, and anyone else who happened to get in the way. At this time the family lived in a house which John named “Romani” after the battle in which he was wounded. This house was situated in Fowler Road Guildford (see photo in this chapter), and reliably reported by Marion Armstrong to be adjacent to the water pipe line at what was known as “Pipe Head”.

Family lore has it that Mary May was an accomplished milliner, which in those days was a much admired and much in demand skill. The only evidence we can find of this is in the photo of a wedding group dated 18 November 1922. The original photo is not clear and the reproduction in this chapter even worse to the point where the faces are unrecognisable. What is clear however is the detail of the hat worn by the flower girl (junior bridesmaid) in the foreground. The basic hat was purchased by Mary May at the Guildford hat factory, together with the hat trim materials, which Mary May fashioned and fixed to the hat. The married couple are Arnim Willcocks and his bride Jean nee Keir, the attendants Harold Stephlay and Dorothy nee Parbery Copeland, and the Rower Girl Marion Armstrong. This photo was provided by Marion in May 2001.

John died in 1923 as a result of a train accident, leaving Mary May to fend for herself and the 10 year old child Rita. At first, Mary May went back to a previous comfort scene, viz. Central Tilba, and took a position as housekeeper for a Mr Ray Negus on a farm near "Braeside", the farm where her married sister Minnie Maud lived. This arrangement lasted about 2 years after which Mary May and Rita returned to Sydney to live with her mother Dorothy, her younger sister Dorothy and the last born to Dorothy (the elder), her younger brother Glanville.

In 1926 her mother Dorothy died, at which time Mary May moved to Granville to establish and operate a boarding house as a means of having a regular income. At this time Mary May was 52 years of age. For the next 9 years the boarding house operation continued. Then Mary May suffered a serious bout of pneumonia which brought on heart failure, and she died on 5th August 1935 at an early 61 years of age.

Mary May is remembered by those who knew her as a small framed neatly groomed woman with a kindly disposition towards children, and those close to her felt a deep loss with her death.

The book, "Martyn Family History 1801-2001" also has some details of Mary May.

As mentioned previously, this chapter has a 14 page transcript of Mary May's travel diary, a copy of her Baptismal Certificate, a copy of her Marriage Certificate and some photographs.

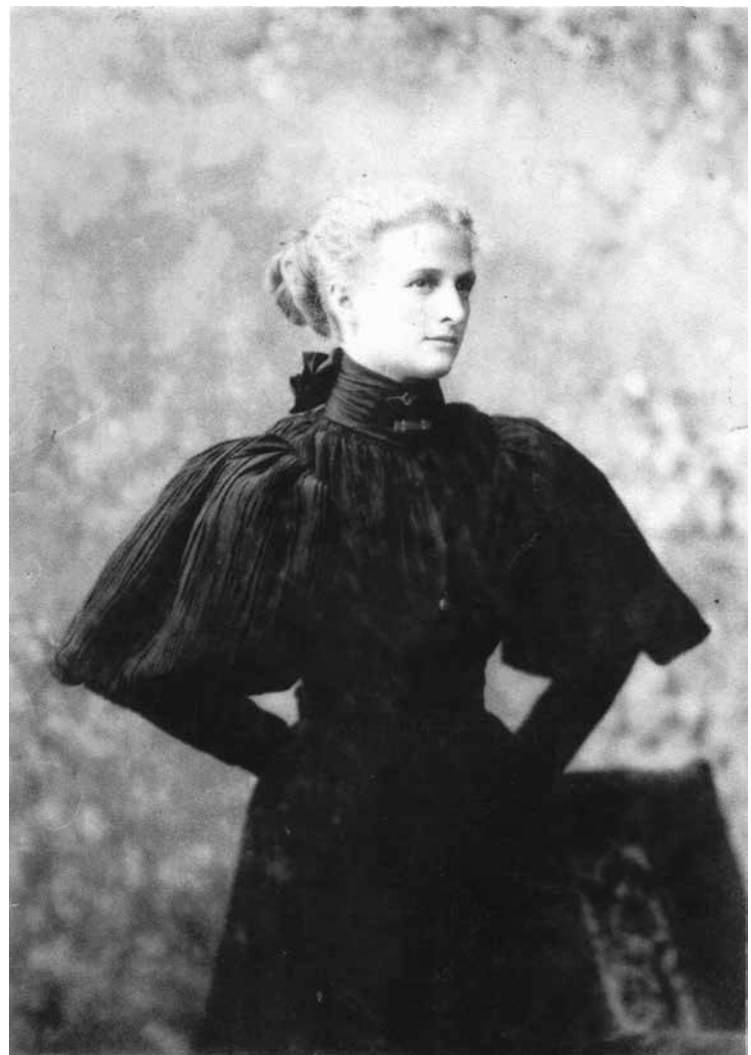


## Certificate of Baptism.

### This Certifies,

That *Mary May Martyn*, Infant daughter  
of *John A. and Dorothy Martyn*, born in  
*Oliphant* on the *1<sup>st</sup>* day of *May*, 18*74*,  
having been presented for Holy Baptism, and it having  
been solemnly promised that *she* shall be taught the nature and  
end of this Holy Sacrament, and all other things which a Christian  
ought to know and believe, in order to a virtuous and holy life, was  
this day baptized by me, in the name of the **FATHER**, and of the  
**SON**, and of the **HOLY GHOST**, according to the Discipline and  
Usages of the **METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**.

*February 4<sup>th</sup>*, 18*77*. *J. Herring* Pastor



29/5/01

Information about Auntie May, Rita Ellis  
from Marion.

I stayed with Auntie May & Uncle Jack Ellis when I was about 10 years old & went to school at Guildford. They lived at 'Romani' Fawlers Rd, Guildford then.

Auntie May made a "Green lotion" cure all, which was a special Martyn recipe (not to be taken).

You mentioned Auntie May was a Milliner, the photo enclosed of my sister Jeans wedding, photo dated 18/11/22 shows me as flower girl (or Junior Bridesmaid) wearing the frock & hat Auntie May made for me, & that is when I left Guildford to go back to 'Braeside' for the wedding. There was a hat factory not far from Auntie May's, across the paddocks then, we used to walk there & that is where she trimmed it. Auntie bought the untrimmed hat for me, & I understood the factory was towards Merrylands.

Auntie May had to go out working <sup>cleaning & doing</sup> in the day time when Uncle Jack was at work to help make ends meet, she may have worked at the hat factory.

Auntie May worked <sup>as housekeeper</sup> for Arthur Negus at "Rocklands" Central Lilba a farm house. My Father enrolled Rita at Lilba Lilba school on 7/10/24 when she was 10 years & 4 months, she was in 5th class. She left the last school which I presume was Guildford on 30/9/24, no date was given when she left Lilba school, only "returned to Sydney, her religion was down F Church.

So I think that was when she returned & lived at Carlton St Granville, (I think it was 17 Carlton St)



(2) From Marion

I think you had made some enquiries about Bravery's <sup>Verons</sup> (Marjorie <sup>Bravery</sup> was the daughter I used to write to & was a friend & neighbour at Guildford, Mrs Verons I think, not sure Verons lived & managed at the Pipe Head water works. You may be able to get some information at Guildford school, and also at Granville when <sup>they</sup> <sup>Wita</sup> went there. I don't think Auntie May was at Negu's very long, perhaps only months.

Auntie May had an enlarged photo of Ruth Bricknell on her mantle piece & she always used to say what a lovely & pretty girl Ruth was that is when I was about 20.

Auntie May before she was married used to work at the general store at Central Tilba Grapp & Borsells store & I think after leaving there was when she went to New Zealand, I don't know how she met Uncle Jack.

As you know all our family loved Auntie May & Uncle Tom, we just didn't see so much of Auntie Blanche & Auntie Horrie. I saw more of Uncle Glen when he worked at Auburn & we lived at Penrith, & whenever I went to Sydney, & went out Auburn way.



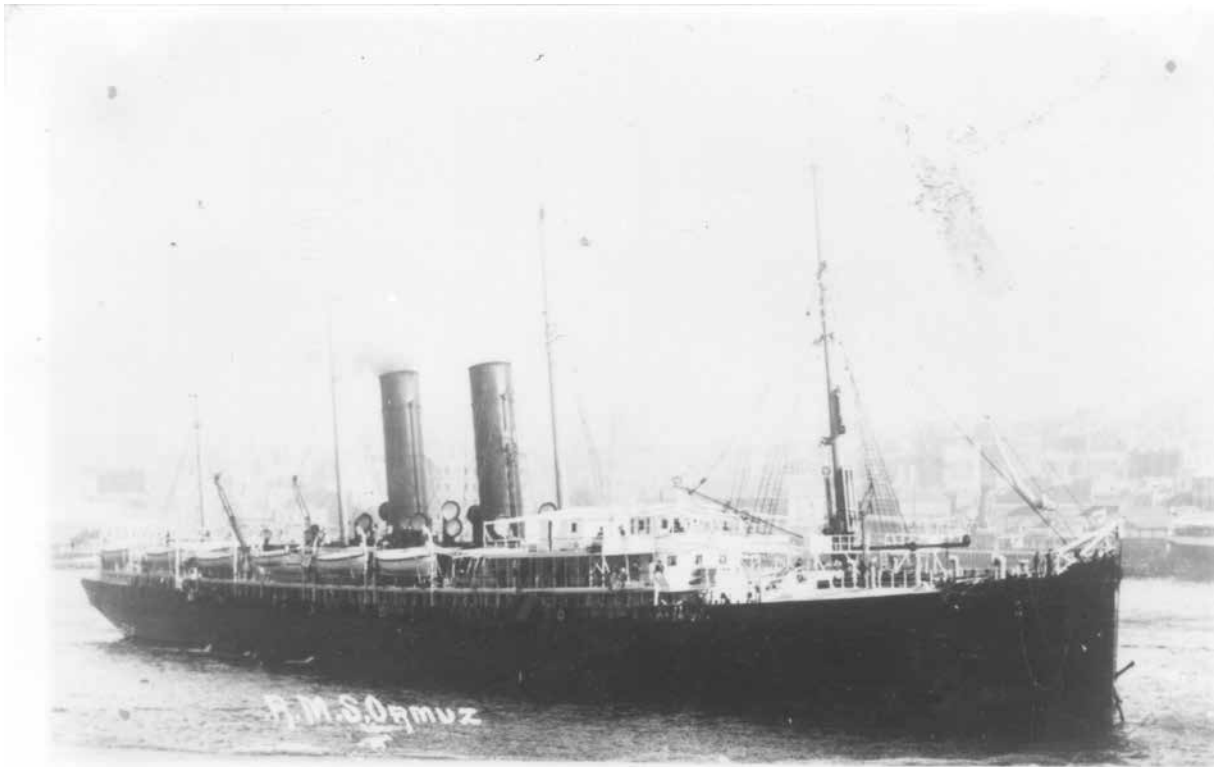
The following pages are a transcript of a diary written by Mary May Martyn commencing February 13th, 1901. The transcript is as verbatim as possible, main exceptions being translation of place names, especially in the Middle East region, and names of people where Mary May's handwriting is not easily interpreted.

As was common at the time, strict attention to the rules of punctuation have not been observed in the diary, with sentences running into each other. In her defence, the diary was not written with the intention of general readership but simply for her own interest.

A number of Mary May's personal characteristics become evident in the text. One is her obsession with cleanliness. There are many references to the state of cleanliness or otherwise of people, towns, accommodation. Another is her perception of natural beauty -countryside, flora especially. A third is her chauvinism towards Australia and things Australian. She is *very* proud to be Australian (despite being born an American) and in the latter part of her account there are several references to her feeling of home sickness for Australia.

Although it appears that Mary May's lot in life during this journey was to care for the infant Willie, her frequent references to the child's poor state of health reveals a concern for and compassion for the child. She makes not even an oblique reference to what is obvious to a reader of this diary that the parents were more concerned with their own pursuits than they were for their child's welfare. Mary May makes repeated references to Willie's ill health over the whole period of her diary entries covering 10 months. It would be interesting to learn of Willie's ultimate fate, and one would not be surprised if, having been carted around the world sleeping in a hundred different beds, suffering regularly from croup, sea sickness, spasmodic swings in climate and the effects of strange food eaten during a more than twelve month's period, Willie died at an early age.

For the present day reader, it is unfortunate that Mary May ceased to record her memoirs when at San Francisco during late November 1901, only half way through her world tour.



**Royal Mail Steamer (RMS) Ormuz. Built by the Orient Company of England in 1886 for the England Australia trade. Registered tonnage 6031.**

### **Mary May Martyn's Diary**

Feb 13th 1901

R.M.S. "Ormuz"

Left Sydney at 12.30 today, Mr & Mrs Shaugham, little Willie and myself. Maggie very sick before tea, myself beginning to feel squeamish. Willie troubled with croup & seasickness.

Thursday 14th. Having some very rough weather nearly all on board sick, even the Stewards & Engineers, we were very sick.

Friday 15th. We pass "Storm Bay" and find it very rough indeed & are again inclined to seasickness. After dinner we sight "Hobart". I might here mention that its very pretty coming along the coast great hills & Mountains some of them very picturesque. As we enter the Harbour it makes one long to go ashore & have a look into the Country. At 3.40 we arrive at Hobart, *very* glad to be in calm water once more & feeling ourselves again.

We go ashore & have a long drive thro' the town & into the country & feel quite repaid for our outing. The roads are *very* pretty, winding in & out & always something fresh to see. Now some hundreds of beautiful Ornamental Trees, then *very* large Orchards, then again the Harbour with its little ferries running to & fro. It seems to be quite an event for a large vessel like the "Ormuz" to come here, the wharf has been lined with people ever since she landed, some putting in time by peering thro the "Ports" which is rather amusing to the passengers as tho' we were some travelling menagerie, but perhaps I will be more amused before I have ended my travels. We had tea in Town after our drive & we thoroughly enjoyed it after our sickness. To-morrow we have another long drive when Dear Diary I may have something to relate.

Saturday 16th. We are up first thing & go for a drive to a place called "Fern Tree Bower" a good distance out of Town. The drive is very hilly and picturesque, the air is as fresh and bracing. "Fern Tree Bower" is a very pretty spot. One long road (or Lovers walk) with plenty ferns, shrub, ornamental trees & rustic seats. An ideal place for lovers. So what need I say more?

On the way up we cannot help but admire the hills in the distance, the different dwellings, some completely hidden among lovely trees of almost every description. Then again the roads are so clean everything seems so fresh. A mile out of the "Town" & you are in lovely country. From "Fern Tree Bower" we travel back & go part way up the mountain (the name I didn't hear) to the "Springs". The view from there is very fine reminding me very much of Tilba from Mount Dromedary, in fact the scenery all the way reminded me of Tilba & Bega. We had to be on board before dinner to start for Melbourne & I was sorry as I should like to have had more time & then perhaps Dear Diary I could have given a better description of Hobart. We left Hobart at 1 P.M. Feb 16th.

Sunday 17th Very little news today. There was service in the morning 1st Saloon, we had some music & singing on our own account, there being about eight Wesleyans on board, we all got together at night & had a real good sing song. We sang till we were quite hoarse, & as there were Tenors, Bass, Sopranos & Contraltos we were able to form quite a choir.

Monday 18th Feb. I am quite sorry to say we have parted with part of our Choir today. They were very nice people. Our boat arrived in Melbourne this morning at 10.30. As I have not gone ashore yet must wait for some news.

Tuesday 19th. We all went ashore early to the train from Port Melbourne got out at Swanston Street, did a little shopping, then got on another train and went as far as the Aquarium. The approach to Port Melbourne is anything but nice, flat, monotonous looking country, everything surrounding has such a dirty appearance. While riding in the train I couldn't help noticing how dirty every place looked, pokey little weatherboard cottages with shingle roofs, tiny yards, & plenty of coal dirt over everything is about the best I can say for that part of the town, after getting in the city seems a little brighter, but I was very much disappointed. The buildings are not nearly as fine as our Sydney buildings. Certainly their streets are wider than ours & they could show some good buildings to better advantage than we can, the streets are nice & clean. Whether its the Yarra or bad drainage I do not know, but the smells we got every now & then were most objectionable even in one of the large shops it was very noticeable. Shopping, or rather display is very reasonable in Melbourne.

They have the cable tram also, the fares are very dear, 3 pence for a very short ride. I couldn't help noticing how few people were on the streets it does not seem a busy place by any means. Even in the shops, there only appeared to be a few stray customers. We then went on to the Aquarium and must admit it was most interesting. We only had a few hours to spend there. I would very much like to have had a few days, there was so much to see. Beautiful gardens, Grottoes, ferneries & quite a variety of birds & fish. I can't describe how everything was laid out, but it was beautiful & we were well repaid for our visit, they also provide you with light refreshments, we had a really good cup of tea. On our return to the steamer which was to leave at 1-30, we found everything hurry & bustle. There were a great many passengers got on at Melbourne for Adelaide & Fremantle, I don't think there's as many passengers for London, about 18 second I think. I must not forget to mention the trains. The carriages are much more comfortable than ours, they don't travel as fast I think.

Wednesday 20th. Nothing to relate today, some sick passengers, the weather is colder again,

the sea very choppy, the boat is rolling lovely which has made it rather difficult to do any writing. Tomorrow morning we expect to be at Adelaide then perhaps I will have some more news for you Diary.

Thursday 21st. We reached "Largs Bay" Port Adelaide this morning very early. Having breakfasted several of us availed ourselves of the opportunity to go ashore on the Tender. It was about 15 minutes to get from the boat to Port Adelaide. Largs Bay is very pretty & as the weather was calm the Bay was like a mill pond. Arriving at Port Adelaide we took trains to the city of Adelaide. The ride to the city is very interesting, part of the way the trains run thro' the main street. We pass thro' several little country towns, it struck me as being a great farming district, the weather was very hot which made all the paddocks look very brown. It is a very flat country. The streets all look so nice & clean, also the cottages, they are built principally of bricks & stone & look so bright, neat & clean. Arriving at Adelaide we hired a cab (as we had only an hour to spend) & made the most of our time. But as we could only get glimpses as we went along any description will not be too clear. The streets are very wide, even more so than Melbourne. There are also some very fine shops & buildings. We had a few minutes in the Gardens, and to a certain extent I was disappointed. I had expected to see gardens much before our Sydney Gardens & also very nice, they have still a lot to do before they can compare with ours. There is not the variety nor the taste displayed that I expected to see, However as I didn't go all over them I must not judge too freely of them. We had so little time. We left Largs Bay about 1-30 P.M. & so far are having lovely weather. There were a great many passengers joined the Steamer, most of them travelling to the West. I am sorry we had so little time as I should have liked to give a clearer & fuller description of Adelaide & Surrounding Suburbs. In three or four more days we expect to reach Fremantle, till then there will be little to tell you Diary. I think I forgot to mention the trains, they are very comfortable & a rather funny thing about them, they run thro' the main streets.

Tuesday 26th. Sunday we had it very rough which made it almost impossible to write. Monday at 12-30 we reached Fremantle. It had calmed down somewhat, we had seven hours there as we had to coal. We found it terribly hot on board thro' having all the Ports closed & I hardly slept all night & felt pretty bad all day today. I must try & describe Fremantle. It is a good sized town & seems a busy place, some of the main streets are rather narrow, the gutters and curbs are of wood, the smell from some of them is vile. It was not as hot as I expected to find it, not nearly as hot as Adelaide, there bring a nice cool breeze. High Street (the principle street) is blocked, is pretty narrow & there seems a plentiful supply of dust. I imagine the shopkeepers have a time trying to keep the place clean, wherever we looked there was plenty of dust visible, in the suburbs its awful. As usual Mr Straughan hired a cab, we drove thro' Richmond, Plymton, & Beaconsfield, very dusty suburbs. We saw several pretty Villas & Houses with the usual thick coat of white dust. To see green grass, would be a rare treat. It is very barren looking soil. They have succeeded in growing a few trees but its sad to see them, they are all bent over, & quite white with dust. The water there is wretched also. Fruit is awfully dear too. Apples 1/- lb. Grapes 6 pence. Oranges about 1½ pence each. Last night we had a musical evening. Mrs Lovett a professional & Mr Alien (Bass) one of McAdors, myself & Mr Philip (Tenor) were part singing we had a good time. Mr Allen also sang some solos, they were a treat, he has a marvellous voice. We anticipate some more singing, in fact they want me to join them on deck in part singing tonight. I may but don't feel too well all day. It has been very hot but tonight its glorious, not a cloud to be seen, the sea like a river almost & a new moon. Maggie moved today into a larger cabin, so they are not so cramped for room now. There's a great many new building going ahead at Fremantle, also great improvement at the Railway Station & wharf. The wharf is very long & there appears to be a good deal of

shipping there, coaling vessels etc. It will be close on ten days before we go ashore again, that will be Colombo.

March 5th I have neglected writing this past week. The days have been very trying, the heat has been most unpleasant, such a heavy atmosphere. Saturday & Sunday was very rough so rough that everything had to [be] buckled to the tables during meals. I hung to my bunk and hardly slept a wink in case I should fall out. Yesterday (Monday) we had a very heavy thunderstorm which quickly cleared the decks & also the atmosphere somewhat. The air is still murky tho'. Last night we crossed the equator. Today (Tuesday) Mrs Lovett photographed a group of us as Maggie was busy with her "Saratoga". She missed it. However we got the baby & I am quite curious to see the picture. We expect to reach Colombo sometime tomorrow. The first saloon are having a concert tonight, some of the 2nd saloon are asked to sing, myself among the number. Sunday afternoon we went to service, the Doctor always holds service for the Steerage passengers. I played the hymns, Maggie sang a solo very nicely, the passengers seemed to enjoy it very much. At night again Mr Alien sang the "Lost Chord" (as I said before he sings a treat) I joined in a Quartette from Elijah. Willie is keeping well, has cut two teeth & is very good. The best of friends with all the Stewards & passengers. I'm enjoying myself very much.

Wednesday 6th March. Last night we were invited to attend the concert in the first Saloon, our Quartette partly sang "Sweet & Low" for which we received a Champion Encore. Mrs Begbie also sang & was encored. The first class are duffers tho', one young lady might never attempt singing. Altogether it passed off very nicely. Today is extremely warm. I suppose we must expect it coming thro' the Tropics. Colombo, How must I start to describe Colombo. Its something I shall never forget.

Wed 6th at 11-30PM we landed by means of a small boat at Colombo. I was informed that the boat would soon be filled with the darkies of Singalese, but was hardly prepared for the rush and rabble they made. It was simply astounding. Hardly had the steamer stopped before it was surrounded with pulling boats, barges, catamarans etc. To watch them climb the ship's side is very funny, they crawl over each other & are up the gangway while I would be putting my foot on the first step. They remind me one minute of a lot of bees, & the nest of ants, for they are buzzing round & all jabbering at once & squirming in & out, one has to watch them to understand it would be most difficult to convey to the reader's mind such a scene as watching them swarm the ship. They are so quick in all their movements. We finally worked our way to the small boat & got safely on the other side, rowed across by the Singalese. They are very cunning & all want to be paid. The chap at the stem of the boat asked 11- or 100 cents each for rowing us across, but we found out thro' the agent or runner that it was only 9 pence at night & 6 pence during the day, He tried hard to get the passengers to pay him, however he did not receive the cash. We all (include most of the passengers) made our way to the "Bristol" Hotel. Talk about attention. They can show our English friends how to be comfortable & contented. This mode of living is so little trouble. I was put in a very comfortable room, everything arranged for visitor comfort & convenience. ( Each room is provided with an electric fan, the use of which costs 75 cents per night) I had some most comfortable chairs, also occasional tables & a writing table.

At 6 AM on Thursday I was awakened by a continuous knocking on my door, on opening it there stood one of the very many attendants with a tray. On it was a pot of most delightful tea (by the way, that is the place to go if one would like a really good cup of tea). Also a plate of bread & small dish of butter, jam ditto, some bananas, lump sugar & milk. I'm afraid I felt rather annoyed as I felt very tired & did not wish to be disturbed. However I partook of the

tea etc & must say I enjoyed it. I then had a peep thro' the shutters. It was quite interesting & exciting to watch men at work. There were hundreds I'm sure & that was at the back of the building. The higher class of them wear white or thin coats & calico or Holland rolled around their body & legs to form a skirt, if they fancy themselves much they might wear a hat, but its usual for them to carry a large umbrella instead. The heat is intense. There's very few windows, principally large doors with shutters let in to let in the light or keep out the heat at will. There's no mistake they know in Ceylon how to build a house to keep out the heat. The walls are very high some of the rooms have as many as 5 or 6 electric fans in. The Halls are very wide, wider than an ordinary room, with rows of all kinds of easy chairs (and they are easy chairs), Hat stands placed in different positions for the convenience of visitors. There are also Hundreds of the most beautiful palms, ferns, plants that anyone could imagine. The fronts of most of the buildings have a great many pretty arches. They are filled with various tropical plants & lend such a charm to the place beside making it look so cool. The sitting rooms or reading room is filled with all kinds of English papers & books. Everything is done for the comfort of visitors. The dining is very large & deliciously cool, looks very massive such thick walls & pretty arches. The tables are made to seat very comfortably four persons & each have an attendant. Everything brought to you, even pour out the tea & sweeten it for you.

I tasted some Pa Pah [papaw] for the first time, a tropical fruit, can't say I like it tho'. It doesn't look unlike a rock melon & is very rich in flavour, too rich for my liking. The bananas that grow there are different to the Fiji. They are very short with skins almost as thin as a glove & are nice in flavour. They are noted for their curry and serve it in so many different ways, I didn't try it as it's not a favourite dish of mine in the summertime. I've since heard that one must know how to eat it.

There must have been 100 or more servants employed in that hotel. After breakfast Mr S engaged a horse & carriage (their carriages are not like ours) we drove through "Wellawattle" to a place called Mt Lavinia. A most delightful spot quite the prettiest drive I've had in my life. We passed thro' miles of bamboo, Cocoonut palms & Pa pah trees. The drive is simply indescribable. The roads are so smooth and such a pretty red colour & what surprised one in such a tropical place was the green grass, no brown hills & flats like we see in Australia but a beautiful green. We were all so sorry to have so little time there, the Steamer left at 2 o'clock which gave us just half a day to see a place that would take a month to see. The houses are very noticeable, those that are kept by the English & the upper classes of Ceylon being very beautiful. During our drive to Lavinia we were fairly beseiged by women & children begging for money, they would get hold of the back of the vehicle & run a mile or more, & all had the same cry, me very hard up lady, penny lady, you berry good teacher you berry good mother, me berry hungry. They would then throw kisses till they were tired & say goodbye till we thought they would never stop. As I had a back seat & was facing the imps I got a good many kisses. They have one everlasting smile & its a wonder to me that they don't get their ears shifted.

All along the road for miles are little shops such filthy little hovels fish, fruit, & all kinds of rubbish jumbled up together. The fish are cleaned & spread out on the road to dry, or be preserved, I'm not sure which. Colombo is a great place for moon stones. They are to be bought mounted or unmounted & are so very cheap. Their Oriental work is something lovely, its marvellous how it is sold for so little. One funny old fellow came up to me and said, You come to my silk shop, you remember me last time lady, you buy silk last time lady I remember you, last time you come steamer. Of course I remembered I said but it must have been a mistake as I had not been there before. I'm satisfied there's a lot of nourishment in cocoanuts & fruit they

have very little else and are all very fat & very erect but the exception of the very old ones. Their mode of dress is funny. I saw one man take his dress (which consisted of one straight piece of stuff) off shake it & put it on again. They are not at all particular. The little piccanies all look so fat & jolly, most of them being dressed with a couple of bangles & a string of beads round their waist.

We had a ride in the rickshaws, they are built after the style of the hooded buggy, are made to seat only one & are drawn by coolies, they are very comfortable. There are hundreds of them to be seen & while waiting the coolies just lie back in them & go fast asleep, They lie about anywhere, on the verandahs, or the roadside, & lead a very indolent life, but when they do work they go at it with might & main.

We left Colombo punctually at 2 o'clock, the Steamer was then surrounded with the natives, dozens of them diving for pennies or silver coins, its marvellous the height they will dive from, some of them being off the top of the ship's boats, they stay under the water such a long time. I was sorry I didn't time them. They come up & put the coin in their mouth, some of them are very small boys, their cry is Di, Di for penny

Friday 8th. Is a lovely day & the weather is gradually getting cooler, nothing to relate but the usual eating drinking & sleeping. Oh we passed three steamers & a lighthouse called Minacoy.

Saturday 9th. We pass another steamer this morning. Willie is not so well this morning, his teeth are giving him such trouble.

March 13th. We are having delightful weather, yesterday we passed several islands, & the north coast of Africa also several Steamers, in five days we expect to reach Port Said.

March 14th. Passed the 12 Apostles, it is rather warm today but exceptional weather for the Red Sea. The Stewards gave a concert at night, some of the musical items were very good, the last part of the program being particularly laughable. I forgot to mention that we met three wedding parties at Colombo. It was quite funny to see the blushing bride drive thro' the streets with her veil & Evening bodice, some of the guests were well dressed in various coloured Silks & did not look too bad.

March 17. We enter the Gulf of Suez and are surprised at the change in the weather, it going from hot to very cold. On both sides of the Gulf it is very rocky, some parts appear to be all rock of the loveliest shades.

There is not much to be remarked upon there until we get to Suez. We lay in the stream for nearly an hour. Suez is a miserable looking place, such quaint looking houses & a few trees. Hardly had the engine stopped before the steamer was swamped with the natives. All trying to drive a trade, Sunday & all as it was. They put their own price on an article but will, in the end, let you have it at your price. However I didn't see anything worth purchasing. Their dress is very funny, much the same style as at Port Said. Coming thro' the Canal we passed several steamers, sometimes having to tie up till they passed (or vice versa). We had to go very slow thro' the Canal it being so narrow, and the miles & miles of sandy desert. Its rather monotonous. Occasionally we saw a funny little house with a few of the Arabs about, at night it got a bit more interesting, as our steamer had on the searchlight & we went thro' a couple of lakes. We could see the reflection of the searchlight from other steamers for miles, which make it rather exciting. At Ismalia we stopped and took on about 70 passengers. After that I retired.

[Author's note. Little did Mary May think that 14 years and 5 months hence, the man she was to marry would be wounded in the fierce battle of Romani, about 40 Km from Port Said and

past which she would shortly travel to Jaffa. As well, the lake town of Ismalia just mentioned in her diary would be the site of the hospital where her husband would be taken for treatment.]

Monday 18th. We arrived at Port Said at 8.30 this morning. Maggie had her toe operated on this morning & does not feel too well this morning. The natives coal very quickly, they each have a basket (not very large) & get one behind the other like a swarm of bees, its marvellous, (considering they must stop to fill up their baskets) how quick they load the vessel, and its rather difficult to pick them out from the coal. I 'm disappointed with Port Said. We can't get away from here till Wednesday evening. Its a dirty little town, as far as I have seen now. The children go about so dirty, flies in their eyes & they allow them to stay there too. Such sore eyes as they have, poor little kiddies. The shops here are much before [?] those at Colombo, but let me have a month at Colombo rather than two days here. We are staying at the "Grand Hotel Continental". Its a very nice place, Everything seems clean, its run almost entirely by Frenchmen. They serve a very nice dinner. I was very sorry to leave the "Ormuz" today, everybody had been so kind to us and we made a few friends. Some of them I hope to meet again. It made me feel quite sad saying so many "Goodbyes", and now we don't know a soul in the place & have not heard a word of English from any but ourselves. I'm too tired to write more now but may news & inclination to write tomorrow night.

19th We drove thro' the town this afternoon & saw "Arab Town". I call it of all the filthy holes that takes the cake. I tried to get a good look at some of the Arab women, a strange thing about them they are not allowed to show their faces. They wear a lace affair brought from the nose and hanging nearly 1 yard long over the forehead & across the shoulder is a black shawl & down the forehead & between the eyes is an arrangement like a candle holder generally of brass so that all is visible are the eyes. I tried to get a good look at several of them but they turn and avoid one. I had an Arab's wedding described to one. The bride is placed in a carriage, the carriage is covered all over with blankets, the bridegroom & rest of the party walk behind each with a burning candle on their heads. Port Said is filled with Greeks, Italians, Egyptians, Frenchmen, Arabs, Turks but very few English. The girls are all fat ungainly looking creatures, occasionally I see a pretty face which I take as belonging to a French maid.

The way the Arabs go about is terrible, rags & filth, filth & rags. Their houses are filthy dirty & don't appear to have any furniture in them. The children mostly have sore eyes caused by the flies and they are allowed to remain in their eyes, the children or their parents would hardly think of driving the flies away. Its a French place we are staying at, its a long way behind Ceylon, the rooms are not kept as nice, no[r] are they fitted as comfortably. We have breakfast any time before 10 o'clock, lunch 12.30, Dinner 7.30PM. They have some very tasty dishes. A great many people have their meals on the street, Tables & chairs being placed there for that purpose. They sit then eat, drink, smoke, play cards all day. To me Port Said seems a regular gambling Den. Another Monte Carlo, only everything they have is very dirty. I have quite a time trying make the Frenchmen understand what I want. I go to the kitchen to make Willie's food. There's generally 6 or 7 of the natives out there. They pretty well understand my requirements mostly.

20th. Its a lovely day. Hot winds & plenty of dirt. We leave about 7 o'clock tonight for Jerusalem. Willie has a slight cold today.

21st. We reach Jaffa about 10 o'clock this morning & are taken across by means of a small boat. There were a great many travelled by the "Euterpe" all for the same purpose (or nearly all) to see the "Holy Land". We get safely across and after walking thru' several narrow (Alley ways) or Streets we come to our carriage & are driven to the Hotel, Jerusalem Hotel. Its quite



a new building & is beautifully built, solid stone, the floors are of marble. Everything is so clean & cool. The rooms are numbered off bible style, [?] 1, Abraham 2. & so on like that, each room having a number & a biblical name. Willie by this time is very hungry & sleepy so I keep him while his mother & father visit Simon House They bring home some figs & flowers from there. After dinner we travel by train to Jerusalem. We are provided with a splendid guide who explains everything as we travel along. Its rather difficult to remember each place, however I will put down whatever I can think of.

In the first place we pass thru' the Plains of Sharon, they extend for many miles part of which is "Rothschilds Orange Grove", a beautiful place acres & acres of oranges & olives.

Then we pass "Yayar" next day on where the image fell, therefore a place of note. To the right are the hills of Shamaria & Sheteanu (spelling??). Then the valley of "Lydda", where Jesus commanded ( ) to take up his bed & walk and he straightaway walked to Jerusalem. Our next stop is Ramleh where Nicodemus was born. Then acres of olive grove, a lovely sight. To the left as we go along are the Hills of Judeah. Sajed Station next Deir Abau. To the left again we see the cave where Samson hid himself Valley of Roses. Our guide told is that in the season the roses were to be smelt for miles around. They are what the real rose water is made from (Dal Har is the next place, a Turteich Village) Phillips Well, Plains of Ephraim near Village Sappho. Arriving at Jerusalem about 6 o'clock PM we are driven to the "Grand New Hotel".

The scenery all the way from Jaffa to Jerusalem is "Grand" & what I fail to understand is the poverty among the people. It is indeed a land flowing with milk & honey. The land is beautiful. There's thousands & thousands of fruit trees & grape vines & there appears to be splendid crops of fodder & yet the cry is "Backtiisheeh", they appear to live no better than the wild beasts

22nd. Mt Zion. Mosque Omar. Temple of the Money changers. The Golden Gate. In the old walls of the city.

[Page 29 of the diary has been left blank, presumably for Mary May intended to complete her experiences relating to the entry for 22nd at a later time.]

23rd Saturday. We start from Jerusalem 7.30 AM for Jericho. Reach Jericho in about 3 hours. We had a comfortable carriage & 3 horses, a good guide & a good driver. The drive is rather interesting, wherever we look it was hills & mountains. Some of them well worn with cattle tracks. We passed several kinds of sheep & goats. There were several points of interest We passed thru' Gethsemane, past the old walls of the city Herod's Gate & very conspicuous for miles around is what they call the Mountain of Temptation where our lord was tempted by the Devil & there's a place erected out of stone & marble to mark the spot. Just below, the Greeks have built a convent. Arriving at the Hotel we are immediately driven to the "Fountains of Elijah" so called because he was supposed to have purified the spring & there has been good water ever since. We had a drink from it, also washed our hands and I must truthfully say it was good water. We return to the Hotel & rest till luncheon. At 2 o'clock we make a start for the "Dead Sea" & River Jordan. We pass the place where it was supposed John the Baptist was beheaded. Its a very dusty drive, several times we have to alight as the road is very steep & narrow.

We stay at the Dead Sea for a few minutes, then journey back to the River Jordan. We were fortunate enough to be able to get a boat & go on the river, it is indeed a lovely river. I washed in fact we all did. I also washed a silk handkerchief, and we each filled a bottle with the water to take away with us. After leaving there we drove straight back to the hotel & had a real good dinner. They know how to look after the travellers in these parts.

Sunday 24th. We get up at 5 o'clock have breakfast & start back for Jerusalem getting there in time for lunch. After lunch we again take our place in the carriage & with our guide drive to Bethlehem & see the place where our Savior was born. Also several tombs that have been cut out of the solid rock, some of the chapels have been hewn out of the solid rock are rather pretty. Bethlehem is well worth visiting it being Sunday we saw several of the different worships.

Monday 25th. We leave Jerusalem behind & make our way to Jaffa where we join the steamer for Port Said. The boat was wretched we were not sorry to leave it next morning.

Sunday 26th. We leave the steamer 7 o'clock this morning going thru' Customs Offices & on to the station. We start for Cairo at 8.50 . The next part of the journey was rather monotonous but at Ismalia we changed. The next train was a decided improvement, we had a very nice lunch on it & a very comfortable carriage. The scenery is very pretty there being miles of rice fields or plantations. The cattle all look well cared for, the people are clean & better dressed . We arrive in Cairo at 4.40 PM & are quite delighted with the appearance of the town.

Wednesday 27th March. We start the morning for the Pyramids at about 8.45. Again we are fortunate in having a very good guide & a good turn out. The drive there is very pretty indeed. The buildings as we pass thru' the town particularly taking our attention. Some of the hotels are just lovely. After crossing the bridge over the Nile we pass thru' miles of rice & clover fields which makes a beautiful picture. Hundreds of camels, donkeys, Buffalos etc. are to be



**William and Margaret Ann Straughan with (baby) William Lynn Straughan. Margaret is first cousin of Mary May Martyn. Pyramids, Giza, February 1901.**



seen in the fields at work or feeding . They all look so fat & well cared for. After the uncared for appearance of the animals & human beings around Jerusalem, one can appreciate the difference.

Arriving at the “Pyramids” we each mount a camel and ride as far as the “Sphinx”. It was built over 1000 years ago of Granite & Alabastre. The floor is of Alabastre & also the top chambers. The bottom rooms are of granite, some of the pieces are so large that I am quite puzzled to know how they were put in position. We noticed the nose of Sphinx had disappeared & on enquiring of our guide he informed us that Napoleon had fired a gun at it & blasted it off. We saw the place where the nose was found in the bull rushes (but the rushes are no more) also Pharaoh’s tomb.

Leaving the Lybian Desert we drive to Mena [?] House & partake of a lunch provided by the Hotel. After lunch we again make a move our next halt being the museum where we saw hundreds of mummies of very ancient Egyptian Kings, Queens, Priests etc. I did not enjoy that part so much as all the inscriptions & notice were Greek to me. Still there is no doubt but the mummies are the Genuine article. Some of them are just crumbling away. I’ll never forget Cairo its such a beautiful City.

Thursday 28th. Stay in today weather very warm

Friday 29th. Exceedingly hot today. Stay in all morning After lunch we drive out to see the Howling Dervishes, a Mahomedan religion. I will not try to describe them for I could not, But they earn the name they have . From there we drive to old Cairo & see the old palace of Hasan Pasha on Rhoda Island, quite at the end of the Garden is the Nilometer constructed by the Omayyade Khalif Suleman AD 715-717 & restored by the Khalif El Mamun AD 813-833. It is a well built of hard stone in the centre of which rises an octagonal column on which is

marked the fluvial scale in ancient Arabic cubit. As soon as the water reaches a certain height the ceremony of the cutting of the Khhalig takes place, either in the first or second week of August. That is when the land is irrigated. Near there is where Moses was found by Pharaoh's daughter in the Bullrushes, the rushes have disappeared long since. We were right glad to get in from the heat.

Saturday 30th. The weather is much cooler today. This morning we drove out to see the Khadive saw a splendid midday array, all the different consuls, English French American etc. It was a very nice sight to see the runners or heralds running before the carriages. After lunch we drive to the village of "Matariah" five miles distant to see "Obelisk of Heliopolis". This obelisk was raised by Useratesen BC 2433 (?) is a monolith 66 feet high quarried out of red granite from Syene & is one of the most ancient. After seeing that we next proceeded to a large Sycamore tree, called Virgins Tree planted in the seventeenth century in place of one that preceded it According to tradition the Holy Virgin rested on it after her flight from Egypt. We next go all over the ostrich farm, which is very interesting. There the birds are reared on a very large scale, we saw three or four hundred of the birds, some just a few days old, some a few weeks. They are awfully pretty & will eat almost anything, we gave them even pebbles.

April 7th. I have neglected your diary, but our boy has been bad for a whole week with his teeth poor little chap & I have had no inclination for anything Today we are in a fog were in it about 14 hours going at the rate of 48 miles a day somewhat different to 3.50 miles. Some of the passengers have been very nervous. The fog lifted about noon, when it did we were very close to land (Marseilles where we take on a few more passengers & lose a few, two out of my cabin, one I was not sorry to say good bye to she was such a crank. Willie still keeps miserable.

8th. We got in a fog again last night, the fog horn going all night, however the sun got the best of the struggle about 9 o'clock this morning so we now are having charming weather & a very calm sea.

Willie is still very unwell having had a bad night, he is sleeping now, I write this to keep guard over him in the cabin.

April 9th. We are again in a fog & remain in it for some hours.

Monday 11th. Yesterday it was extremely rough all day & bitterly cold. Today we are in the Bay of Biscay are having a lively time of it, the ship is pitching about & great waves are breaking over her, a great many passengers are sick. Willie is on the mend, he has had a bad time of it. Tomorrow we expect to reach Plymouth.

Sunday 13th. We reach Tilbury Docks early this morning what with waiting for [?] & luggage it was almost noon when we left & 1.30 when we reached our Hotel. We are staying at Bernards so far must say I like it & feel quite at home. Willie is better today. I feel the cold very much. A fortnight ago we had 100 degrees & now its no more than 50 or 60. It is an unpleasant day, mizzle & fog, sometimes we couldn't see the scenery for the smoke from the train & the fog. I hope to be more favourably impressed with London when the sun shines & Willie is quite well.

April 19th. There has been nothing of interest to write about as I have not gone about, till yesterday morning when I went to the city. We were in Paternoster Row & bought some music. Were in Cheapside, Ludgate Hill & hurried thru' the Royal Exchange, Also I saw Mappim & Webbs grand display of silver jewellery & last of all we had a hurried peep thru' St Pauls. Its a fine old building, its well worth a whole day. Willie is a good bit better today, he has been

very poorly for nearly three weeks.

May 23rd. How neglectful I have been, I must try to fill in the space a little. We left London four weeks ago for Blyth. While in London I was out very little on account of Willie's illness. I'm pleased to say he's quite recovered & is almost walking therefore a fair little mischief. While in London I went thro' Madame Taussards & to see the Christy Minstrels, and had a peep at some of the West End shops. However I don't care about London, am very much more in love with Scotland. Blyth I never would like, the surrounding districts are very pretty. Newcastle-on-Tyne, Jesmond & Jesmond Dene I'm in love with. When we go back to Blyth a party of us will likely spend a few days exploring some of the [?]. We left Edinburgh this morning for Perth. Edinburgh is one of the most delightful cities I have seen yet, such a lot of fine old historical buildings. We were shown all over the old castle (Holyrood), & the Holyrood palace. I won't try to describe everything when I say it's a charming old city. I must stop for want of words to express myself. This afternoon we drove over the town & thro' the country of Perth.

England is in a state of beauty, clad in her spring garments all the hedges and trees just breaking into blossom. I'm in love with England more every day & if America can show us more beauty (natural beauty I mean) than England then I have a rare treat in store. The weather is all that can be desired & I'm looking better every day. Tomorrow we start for Inverness. Scotland is a bonny place & I don't wonder the people boast of it for they have good reason.

May 24th. This is my dear Mother's birthday, the holiday is still kept at the King's request. We left Perth this morning by the 9.20 train, for Inverness, the ride all the way is exceedingly lovely. The timber & hedges are thick & all one glorious green, the shades are perfect, all the way we seem to be following rivers & creeks lending a charm to what seemed almost perfect.

We arrive at Inverness about 2 o'clock ready for our lunch. We are staying at the Palace Hotel, a fine building fitted with every comfort & commanding a nice view facing as it does the River & Castle which stand on the opposite hill. I took Willie out for a walk to investigate a little on my own account, it was awfully dusty & after walking along the river bank & crossing to the other side, I was glad to turn back, for Willie is no lightweight, & I was completely exhausted, altho' I'm getting heavier every day. I suppose I will see some of the town tomorrow then for more news.

May 25th. We all went for a drive today. We were right thro' the cemetery, it's very pretty, to see it from a distance it's hard to imagine there is anything there but trees, The cemetery is on a very steep hill it is formed in terraces. Of course the road winds round & round, at the top you can command a splendid view of the town & canal. Inverness is a very nice place. Mr & Mrs S think it much prettier than Perth. It may be but if so I didn't see the pretty spots. To my mind Perth is by far the prettiest place. Such pretty country roads & avenues.

Sunday 26th. I didn't go anywhere except a little walk at night but feeling so much alone I came back & went to bed.

Monday morning very early we were up & away by the 7 o'clock boat for "Banair" all among the Highlands. Arriving there about 3 o'clock. We proceeded to the "Banair Hotel". It's a fine building, nice large rooms everything very clean & comfortable but like all places managed by "Menzies" they know how to charge.

Tuesday 28th. We go by train to a place called Mallaig. It's quite a new place. We just have time to walk to the Station Hotel for lunch & back in time for the return train. The Station Hotel is quite new, in fact it is hardly completed. It will be a splendid place. Everything is being

done for health, comfort & convenience. Mallaig is not much of a place that will be much patronised by tourists. The scenery varies from Banaire to Mallaig although we are surrounded by mountains all the time. Now we have lakes on one side then on the other, some dotted all over with pretty little islands some we have pretty bush scenery. There's a lovely variety of trees in Scotland & the hedges are glorious but nowhere have I seen the pretty undergrowth that our Australian mountains possess. There's the blue bells & classic buttercup. Some places you will see primroses as thick as they can be but none of them are as beautiful to me as our great variety of ferns, the delicate little fern that you grow all round the trunk of the tree fern, the pretty maiden hair, giant maiden hair a rare ferns & plants too numerous to mention

Wednesday 29th. We leave Banaire by train for Fort William. At Fort William we join the steamer for Oban. We intended spending a day or two there but as it was so wet next morning, Monday, Mr S decided it best to travel to Glasgow as we could do no sightseeing in the rain. So we left by the 12.35 train for Glasgow. I was sorry too as it turned out fine, we passed several pretty pleasure places, they seemed from the peep I had to be much prettier than some of the places we stayed at. When we arrived at Glasgow it was raining. We were at once driven to the Windsor Hotel. I have tea brought upstairs. I'm feeling very weary. Babes too are very.

One has to be always trying to devise some new plan of amusement so as other people will not be worried with him. Willie is a good boy & a good traveller, still he is a baby & requires a deal of attention. I have a fit of the blues & have been wondering whether all are well at home or at Blyth. I can't keep any thoughts from running there, especially home, much as I fight against it. In a nut shell I'm positively homesick. Perhaps when I'm among friends again it will be different.

Friday 31st. Maggie & Mr Shave gone out for the day. I stay behind with Willie. I will have my lunch & dinner brought up to me. Don't feel over special today, am very weary. Perhaps I will write some more tomorrow. It's a disagreeable blustery day.

June 1st. We all go to the Exhibition today, it's a lovely day, we are quite delighted with the Exhibition especially to find that Australia has some exhibits. West Australia & Queensland each having a court. I felt like crying out "Hurrah" for dear Australia. Their Courts certainly did them great credit, there were no others of the kind to equal them. I was very disappointed to find nothing from New South Wales. W A had a fine lot of exhibits shells, cereals, paintings, wild flowers, wood work etc, the woodwork was splendid, I saw nothing finer of its kind anywhere, We leave Glasgow & return to Blyth dirty old Blyth. Can't say I had a very good time there, but felt sad saying goodbye to some of the folks especially Mrs T ---. She was always so kind & I'm sure we would have loved each other very much. She did cry when we left. From Blyth we go direct to Barrow in Furness staying with Mr Wm Bell for about three weeks. That three weeks was very uneventful so I will not dwell on it. One afternoon we visited Furness Abbey, it's the finest old ruin I have seen in all my travels & very ancient. We had our pictures taken 3 or 4 times. A day or two later the four cousins left for Ireland leaving [?] Scott & myself to housekeep & look after the babies, & as Mrs Scott had a baby & I had to look after Willie we hadn't much time at our disposal, so I saw nothing of Barrow. They came home the night before I left for Wales. Mr & Mrs Scott, Willie Bell myself went to the Draughtmen's Sports which was rather good fun. Next morning I left for Cardiff to visit my uncles & had a splendid time, my only regret being so little time. From Barrow to Wales it takes about 10 hours. I had to change four times. At Crewe I was met by a cousin of my Aunt Mary's, a Postmaster of that town. It was strange to hear my name spoken in a place where I thought no one knew me.



He was very kind and put me on the right train to Cardiff, I enjoyed myself so much and was nearly tempted to stay longer, but that would have been inconvenient. As it was I saw very little of London. While in Porth my uncle drove to Llantrissant see an aunt and cousin and the old home of my father. I received every kindness there. I couldn't help comparing Llantrissant (especially the old part) to the Holy Land, hilly country, old stone walls & other things which made it seem familiar. Leaving Llantrissant the next day (we, my aunt & I) return to Porth, spending the day at uncle Dick's, and then back to Uncle George's for the evening. I always fancied I was going home when on my way to George's. His wife is so nice, we got along fine together. I. spent one afternoon at the school with her, they have two such dear little children, pigeon pair.

We left London July 10th for America per SS Oceanic one of the finest vessels afloat, she is magnificent quite a floating palace. There we received every kindness. I met our table Steward of the "Ormuz". He was one of the Stewards in first Saloon & used occasionally put a box of grapes in my state room. As grapes from England they were about 2/6 lb. I appreciated them & they were very fine. We had nice weather across the Atlantic but was expecting very hot weather when we got to New York & before we touched the wharf we could smell the hot wave 'or winds'. We arrived very early in the morning & spent a few hours waiting our turn to get off. We finally got off then had to hunt for our luggage & put it in the hands of a Customs Officer. He went thro' them very quickly altho' it seemed hours to me. The heat was intense & Willie was tired out & would not keep still. I was completely worn out & disgusted with America, not a good first impression. Well we finally got away from there & boarded a street car to the ferry & crossed to Jersey shore expecting our luggage to get there almost as soon as we did, Pitied poor Mr Straughan running all over the place to see what had become of the luggage, and a scorching day it was. There had been some mistake & the boxes left at the wrong place. Instead of reaching Philadelphia at dinner time we got there at 7 o'clock at night tired & disgusted.

All Maggies sisters were there waiting to see her. The first two months we spent there were very uneventful, the weather being entirely too warm to venture out of doors. I never experienced such weather (so continuous the heat) in Australia & felt like going home if only it hadn't been so far to walk. When the weather got cooler I liked it better & went out more M Wm & Auntie had a fortnight away leaving me behind with Willie. He was poorly from so much heat & couldn't sleep & wouldn't let me either. I'm afraid I called America a lot of disagreeable names

Emma Field called & made my acquaintance. She is quite a public personage. An Elocutionist and teacher in Physical Culture. She took me out several evenings to see her friend & she calls on very nice people so I saw thro' some of the lovely homes of Philadelphia, & was always asked to come again. By that time (our time was getting limited) thro' her I was asked to several homes (but had to decline with thanks) A Mr Sutieus Barrister narrated me some news of "Fairmount Park" & tho' so poorly impressed with America at first was rather sorry to leave only for the Magnet that draws me away "Home" Poor Auntie took it very hard when we left. She felt as tho' she would never see Maggie again. I'm afraid she would be ill & liked the cousins all so much. But I think Elsie had the warmest spot in my heart. We had our pictures taken together, one is to be framed for mother then she can have us always with her (if she wears it).

Oh we left Philadelphia Nov. 21st for San Francisco stopping the first night at Niagara Falls & spending all day Friday 22nd visiting the different falls & springs. The Falls are the finest I ever expect to see. The fall of water is immense especially the Canadian Falls which form



part of the Horseshoe Falls. They are a beautiful sight. The fall is so great that when the water reaches the bottom there is so much spray & mist that one wonders where the water goes, not being able to see the bottom. The Falls are most indescribable. I don't think pen could ever do them justice or tongue either. Must see to understand. We had a very fatiguing trip across the continent spending one night at Colorado, getting there late at night & tired out. Next morning we were off again for Salt Lake City. I was somewhat disappointed there, having heard so much about it. The city is well laid out & boasts of some very fine buildings. Perhaps I was too tired to appreciate or enjoy the fine scenery.

The air didn't feel as bracing as at Colorado. We had a long drive in the afternoon & saw several of the homes of Brigham Young's wives (twenty six wives all told I understand). Some of them are very fine, one in particular which he had built for his favourite wife just before he died. The streets in Salt Lake City are very wide, the widest I have seen. Unfortunately it had been raining & the streets were in a shocking state. Our next stop is Maywood Colony California. There we felt like going home, the air felt so good. Everything had such a fresh country appearance. We were not met with such kind treatment, so felt like being home instead of at an Hotel. Next morning we all go for a drive thro' numerous orchards, oranges & Olive Groves, quite a pretty sight, thousands of acres and all in a

flourishing condition. Our horses took fright & nearly threw us "overboard", fortunately they ran in some heavy mud & we were saved. Willie was upset for days over it. In the afternoon Maggie went out again, leaving me with Willie. He didn't seem very well & we thought the rest might do him good. Next day there was no mistaking his illness, he had a severe attack of croup which lasted all the time we were there, about five days, and that was the end of our outing much to our disappointment, and we were so much in love with Maywood. The last night we were to go out for an evening it rained so hard & Willie was still unwell so we did not go. Our next stop is San Francisco where we spent a week.

[Author's note. At this point, for reasons unknown to us, Mary May ceased recording her diary notes. In her note book are some names and addresses, and two recipes. These are transcribed as follows:]

Mr E. Latie [or Latre], Engineer's Office, G. W. Railway, Millbray, Plymouth (presumably this is Plymouth UK)

Mrs Windrocs [or Windroes], Pictant S Gardens, The Boulevard, Toronto, Lake Macquarie NSW

C?? Wm. Bell Esqr, 9 Catherine Terrace, Waterloo Blyth, Northumberland England

G F Martyn, Hawthorn cottages, 65 Aber Rhondda Rd, Porth ?S? Glamorgan Wales

? H Lyon Esqr. 235 Jamestown Street, Manayunte, Philadelphia PA, USA

Rev. Father Greene, Editor St. Josephs Advocate, Baltimore USA

Rev. Bro. Tobias, Baltimore

Mrs Galloway, 32 Lordship Park, Stoke Newington, London

Mrs G Matthews, Chloride Street, Broken Hill

Miss Jenkins, 4 Queens Parade, Cheltenham England

Mrs Mandeville, 13 Gordon B'ld'gs, Hinders Lane Melbourne

Mrs A Currie, Magic Street, "Coblergh" Mosman

Miss B Manuel, Smith Gate, Llantrissant, Glamorganshire  
H Henderson, 20 Westward St, Middlesbro, Yorkshire  
Mr Henry G Allan, California Hotel, Bush Street, San Francisco USA  
Mrs H J Hicks, 2342 North 9th Street, Philadelphia PA  
Mrs J Saunders, 211 Glenmore Road, Paddington  
Mr Amos Warden, 24 & 25 King William Street, London EC  
Mr Robt. Crawford, 402 E. Walnut Street, Hazleton PA, USA  
Miss Hicks, 2055 E Dauphin St, Philadelphia  
Mrs N A Crawford, Bidwell Ave, Chico, Butte County, California

oooOOOooo

#### CHEESE OMELETTE

Break 3 eggs into a basin, beat till light & frothy, add a pinch of salt & pepper & 2 ozs of mild grated cheese. Melt an ounce of butter in an omelet pan. As soon as it bubbles up pour in the egg mixture. Prick all over with a fork to prevent it sticking. When just set, fold it over carefully. Lift on hot dish with egg stick & serve at once.

#### FRUIT SALTS

8 oz cream of tartar, four C. Soda, 4 Tartaric acid, 6 packets salts. Grind the salts well mix thoroughly. Keep in a well corked bottle.

#### MOTHER SUGLO SYRUP

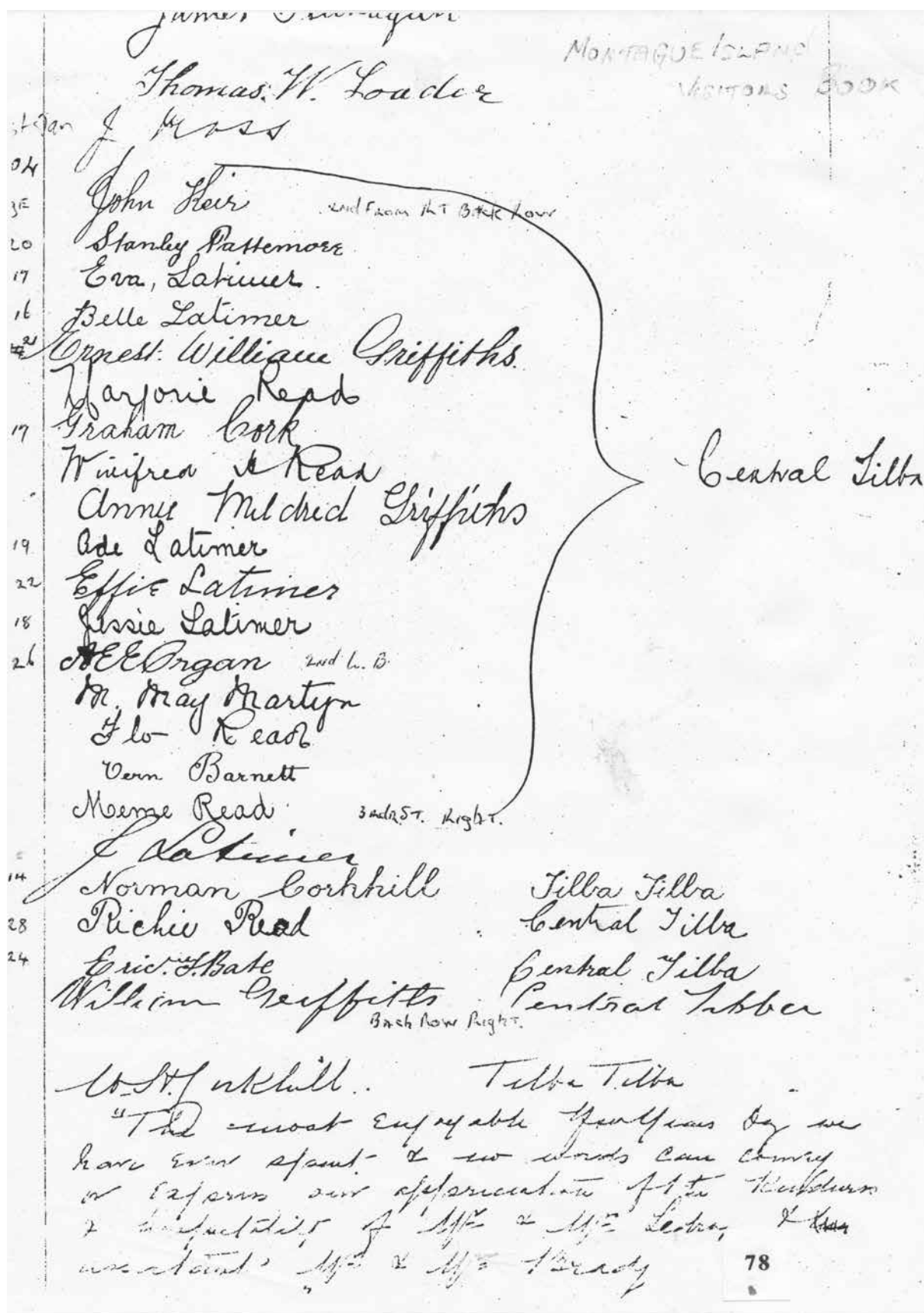
Take half stick best licquorice, half oz butter, Aloes, 6 worth oil of aniseed, as much Cayenne Pepper as will lie on a shilling & one pint of water & one small cup of sugar. Pound Aloes & Liquorice very finely & put into a jug with sugar, pepper & water & let it boil till all the mixture is dissolved. Take off fire when nearly cold, stir in the aniseed . Bottle & cork ready for use. Shake the bottle well & take half a teaspoon after each meal. (M. Churches)

#### COUGH MIXTURE

Large stick liquorice, 1 lb treacle or syrup, 1 quart water, 3 pence worth of essence peppermint, 3 pence worth paregoric, 3 pence worth Laudanum. Break or bruise the Liquorice & mix with treacle & boiling water. When cold mix in the other ingredients. (Mrs Churches)



**Picnic group taken on Montague Island during the first week of 1904. Mary May is to the left of the group, with her hands behind her back.**



Montague Island visitors' book, 1904.

## NEW ZEALAND

**CERTIFIED COPY OF ENTRY OF MARRIAGE**  
in the Registrar-General's Office

Number	30	
When married	10 June 1908	
Where married	In the Presbyterian Manse, Huntly	
	<b>Bridegroom</b>	<b>Bride</b>
Name and surname	John Lewis Spencer Ellis	Mary May Martyn
Age	35	34
Profession or occupation	Railway Employee	Milliner
Conjugal status (bachelor, spinster, widower, widow, or divorced)	Bachelor	Spinster
Birthplace	South Wales, England	Oliphant, Pennsylvania, America
al residence (in full)	Huntly	Huntly

*Certified to be a true copy of the above particulars included in a marriage entry in the records of the Registrar-General's Office.*

*Given under the seal of the Registrar-General at Wellington, this*

*11th day of April 19 72*



The fee for this certificate  
is  
\$1

**CAUTION**—Any person who (1) falsifies any of the particulars on this certificate, or (2) uses it as true, knowing it to be false, is liable to prosecution under the Crimes Act 1961.



**For details of this poor reproduction, refer to the text at the foot of the top of page 56. The photo was taken on 18 November 1922. Inclusion here is to illustrate Mary May's millinery skills.**

### Chapter 3. Rita May Ellis

Rita was born on 22 June 1914 at Waverley Sydney. Later in this chapter is a copy of Rita's summary of her life, written in her own handwriting. This record covers 3 pages only of A5 size paper, and to someone who knew of Rita by this document only, it might seem she led a mundane life. However, when the records are examined, Rita's life was full of interesting and different events.

The Qualifications table below summarises in chronological sequence those events and activities which were highlights of her nursing and music life.

From what has been recalled by Marion Armstrong who had a close association with Rita as a young girl, Rita's early life was not easy. Her father Jack as recounted in chapter 1 was suffering (not verified but highly likely) from war related neuroses. He was a strict disciplinarian, and kept a tight rein on the activities of his wife Mary May and on Rita, but it would have been a deep shock to both Mary May and Rita when told of the circumstances of Jack's death. Jack was killed in a train accident in 1923. Family lore has it that Jack suicided. However, it may well have been something of a relief also to the two women to be free of Jack's overbearing supervision of their lives. There was a consequent problem however, and that was one of no breadwinner. As Rita at this time was only 9 years of age, it befell Mary May to become the family breadwinner which she did in different ways as a housekeeper initially and later as a boarding house keeper in her home in Granville.

As recorded in Chapter 2, Mary May died in August 1935, leaving Rita, untrained, unskilled and impecunious at age 21 to fend for herself. For a period of about 18 months Rita, with the help of her aunt Ida, wife of Mary May's brother Richard, continued to run the boarding house. Then early in 1937 the boarding house business was sold, and Rita commenced her future lifetime career of nursing, enrolling in a 4 year course of Nurse training.

Although it will be seen that Rita spent much time improving her knowledge and skills as a nurse by undergoing various training programs, she had other interests in music and travel. The table below shows the different levels of music education she achieved, along with her professional qualifications.

In researching her life activities, the passports which Rita had show she had a love for travel. Maybe this stemmed from her mother's round the world trip in 1901. Whatever the motivation, Rita had a total of 5 passports issued over a 40 year period between July 1947 and July 1987. These show that during this 40 year period Rita travelled to Ceylon (Sri Lanka), the Suez Canal Zone, Denmark, Liechtenstein, Rotterdam, England (Southampton, London, Harwich, Heathrow), Japan (Haneda, Narita), Norway (Bergen), Canada (Toronto), Thailand (Bangkok), Singapore, Hong Kong, Norfolk Island.

#### Qualifications

Year.	Mth	Categ.	Qualification & Authority
1927	0	General	Certificate of Merit Form 1 for History (3rd), French (2nd), Arithmetic (3rd), at Girls' Intermediate High School Homebush
1928	0	General	Certificate of Merit Form 2 French First, issued by Girls Intermediate High School Homebush
1929	0	General	Certificate of Merit Form 3 Maths II First, Latin Third, issued by Girls Intermediate High School Homebush
1930	05	General	Intermediate Certificate English B, History B, Maths I B, Maths 11 B, Latin A, French A, Botany B, awarded by NSW Dept of Education, Homebush High School



1932	03	General	Leaving Certificate English B, Latin A, French B, Maths I B, Ancient History B, awarded by NSW Dept of Education, Paramatta High School
1933	10	Business	Theory Certificate, Elementary Phonography with Distinction 94%, (Note 1), issue by Incorporated Phonographing Society of Australia
1939	0	General	Invalid Cookery at Sydney Technical College
1941	06	Medical	Nurses Certificate at R.P.A. Hospital Training School for Nurses
1941	08	Medical	Certificate of Registration as a General Nurse NSW, authorised by NSW Nurses' Registration Act 1924, 1932
1941	10	Medical	Certificate of Registration as a General Nurse Victoria (10016), authorised by Nurses' Acts Victoria
1942	06	Medical	9 months obstetric course at Melbourne Queen Victoria Hospital
1942	07	Medical	Certificate of Registration as a Midwife (7825), authorised by Midwives Act 1928
1942	10	Medical	Certificate of Registration under NSW Nurses Registration Act
1942	10	Medical	Certificate of Registration as Midwife Nurse (879/4), authorised by NSW Nurses Registration Act
1944	06	Medical	Tresillian Mothercraft Certificate issued by Tresillian Homes
1947	10	Medical	Registered Nurse with General Nursing Council for England & Wales
1950	09	Medical	Skilled Nurse in Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Poliomyelitis, Meningitis, Measles at Melbourne's Queen Victoria Memorial Infectious Diseases Hospital
1954	02	Medical	Certificate of Registration as General Nurse Queensland (17727), Authorised by Queensland Nurses' and Masseurs' Registration Act 1928, 1948
1959	12	Music	First Class Certificate of Music Primary Exam, issued by the London College of Music
1960	06	Music	First Class Certificate Theory of Music Grade III, issued by the London College of Music
1960	12	Music	First Class Certificate of Music Grade V, issued by the London College of Music
1960	12	Music	First Class Certificate of Music Grade IV, issued by the London College of Music
1960	12	Music	Pianoforte Grade VIII Hons, issued by London College of Music
1960	12	Music	First Class Certificate Theory of Music Grade 11, issued by the London College of Music
1962	0	Music	Theory of Music 4th Grade Hons issued by Australian Music Exams Board.
1963	0	Music	Theory of Music 5th Grade Hons, issued by Australian Music Exams Board
1964	0	Music	Pianoforte 7th Grade Hons, issued by Australian Music Exams Board
1973	07	Medical	Mothercraft Nurse by NSW Nurses Registration Board
Various dates			Service Record of Nursing in NSW #3680

Note 1: Pitmans Shorthand

For safe custody and to maintain all of Rita's certificates in one central point, these are in the custody of Narelle Watt at her home in Coffs Harbour. Consideration was given to reproducing these to display in this history, but it was considered impractical to do so, as some would be quite difficult to reproduce.

In addition to what has been recorded so far, a few items have been reproduced. These are Rita's Baptismal certificate dated 7 October 1914, Certificate of Entry of Register of Births dated 22 June 1914, and a letter of appreciation of service to the community from the NSW Health Commission on the occasion of Rita's retirement, dated 8 January 1975.

Some photos of Rita, taken from an early age of about 4 through to one of the most recent taken about 1997 shortly before her death, have been included in this history also.

There is little doubt that Rita had a full, diverse, interesting and rewarding life which she created for herself. Her mother, and her father, would have been proud of her achievements.



**Rita May Ellis taken about 1917**



BIRTH REGISTERED IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.

CERTIFIED COPY FURNISHED UNDER PART V OF THE  
REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES ACT, 1973.

Name (if added after  
Registration of birth

Particulars of registration

Witnesses

Informant

Mother's name and  
maiden surname, age  
and birthplace

Date and place of  
marriage-  
previous issue

Father's name,  
occupation, age  
and birthplace

Sex

Name and whether  
present or not

Date and place of  
birth of child

No.

24206

1014-  
12-1-1908

41 St Devism Street  
Marsbury  
Sydney

Male

(1) John  
Devism  
- Elder 8

(2) John  
Devism  
- 42 years

(3) John  
Devism  
- 42 years

(4) John  
Devism  
- 42 years

(1) 10-1-1908  
Sydney, New South Wales

(2) New Zealand

(3) previous issue

(1) Mary  
Devism  
- 40 years

(2) 40 years

(3) 40 years

(1) John  
Devism  
- 40 years

(2) John  
Devism  
- 40 years

(3) John  
Devism  
- 40 years

(1) John  
Devism  
- 40 years

(2) John  
Devism  
- 40 years

(3) John  
Devism  
- 40 years

(1) John  
Devism  
- 40 years

(2) John  
Devism  
- 40 years

(3) John  
Devism  
- 40 years

I, VERNON MARK BENNETT, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE COPY OF PARTICULARS RECORDED IN A  
REGISTER KEPT BY ME.



*Vernon Mark Bennett*

PRINCIPAL REGISTRAR

ISSUED AT SYDNEY, 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 1987.

MG

Form No. 6.

Application No. 41/19447



NEW SOUTH WALES.

Registrar General's Department,  
Sydney, 27th May, 1941.

CERTIFICATE OF AN ENTRY IN REGISTER OF BIRTHS.

No. of Entry 24206/14

I hereby certify that an entry in a Register of Births kept in this Office in pursuance of the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act, 1899-1934, gives the following particulars concerning the Birth of

Rita May Ellis.

Date of Birth 22nd June, 1914.

Birthplace Waverley, Sydney, N. S. W.

Registrar General.

Bt 1846

T. H. TENNANT, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

Barnabas' Ch: Mill Hill, Waverley.  
Memorial of Baptism

"Be thou faithful unto Death," And I will give thee a Crown of Life."

Name Rita May Ellis  
Date 7<sup>th</sup> October 1914

IN your Baptism you were signed with the sign of the Cross in token that hereafter you should not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ Crucified, and manfully fight under His banner against sin, the world, and the devil, and to continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto your life's end.

R. Lyle Howson, Rector

No. 60.





**Uncle Tom, Aunt Ida and Dorrie Martyn**



**Rita May Ellis taken about 1950**



**Rita May Ellis taken about 1997**



Resumé of life of Rita May Ellis  
Born 22nd June, 1914 at Waverley (Sydney)  
My mother & I lived with maternal  
grandparents (grandmother) during early years  
- Annandale - Guildford.  
after father's return from war lived in a house  
built for returned men at "Romani",  
Foulkes Road Guildford.

After father's death (run over by a train  
after falling from platform on Granville  
Station). At the time father's sister Agnes came  
on holiday from New Zealand was staying with us.  
My life moved then to the Central Hills area  
where mother had a housekeeping job at the farm  
of Ray Pegus, on the road to Braeside which  
was the home of mother's sister Minnie Keir -  
the Keirs were still living there, but scattered  
with marriage.

At about 1925-26 was a period when we  
lived in a house in Cumberland Road, Auburn,



Dorothy Eliza Martyn, Rita's aunt, and Rita,  
taken about 1942

with Grandma Hartyn, Aunt Doris & Uncle Sam.  
I attended Auburn Public School, then proceeded  
at the age of  $\approx 12\frac{1}{2}$  years to Homelush Intermediate  
High School for girls.

Grandma Hartyn died  $\approx$  year, and mother & I  
moved to Granville, where mother took in  
boarders to earn a living. I then transferred to  
Passanetta High School until attaining the  
Leaving Certificate in 1931

Mother died Aug. 5<sup>th</sup> 1935 of pneumonia - heart failure  
I managed boarding house 12 months, with some  
help from Aunt Ida, after which time the  
business was sold & I made my home with  
Uncle Sam & Aunt Ida at  $\approx$  Phillip St, Auburn.

March 1937 was the commencement of 4 years  
nursing training at R.P.A. Hospital, then on  
attaining my certificate in June 1941, proceeded  
to Queen Vic. Hospital, Melbourne, for 9 months  
Midwifery training (1-8-41 - 29-6-42)

Worked in obstetric ward at Yarnworth Base Hosp  
9-2-43 - 31-1-45 as sister



During that period I was granted 4 months leave to acquire certification in Preskillian at Vaucluse. Between Aug. - Dec. 1945 worked as sister at Glenfield Special School for sub-normal children. 18.1.46 - 24.7.47. worked as sister gaining experience at Far West Children's Home, Bantry, continuing from 25.7.47 - 15.10.47 to Wentworth to commence a baby clinic.

14<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1947 - Left for England, making headquarters with mother's 2 cousins in Wales (see diary.)

14<sup>th</sup> July 1949 - Back in Sydney

3.2.50 - 5.9.50. - at Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital (6 months training)

10.10.50 - 29.12.53 Sister at King-George V Hosp. Comrades

5.1.54 - 29.4.54 Sister at Rossman Hospital (Queensland)

Feb. 1955 - 7.3.75. Baby Health Centres - Deniliquin  
Relieved in near Sydney area  
(Coffs Harbour from 1967) 13 years.

Retired 1975.

Lived in Lawtell 1976 - 1981

Brunswick Ave. 1981 - 1995



Girls' Intermediate



High School, Homebush

# Certificate of Merit

Awarded to

*Rita Ellis*

Form I 1927

*History, 3<sup>rd</sup>*

*French, 2<sup>nd</sup>*

*Arithmetic, 3<sup>rd</sup>*

*A. Newell*

Principal



STATEMENT ONLY

Technical Education Branch  
Department of Education, New South Wales

## SYDNEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to Certify that MISS RITA MAY ELLIS

attended the Course of Instruction in INVALID COOKERY at the \_\_\_\_\_

SYDNEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE during the 193 9

session, and passed the Theoretical and Practical Examinations held on completion of the Course.

*A. W. Hinks*

Superintendent.







NEW SOUTH WALES.  
"NURSES' REGISTRATION ACT, 1924-1932."

**Certificate of Registration as a GENERAL Nurse.**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that

RITA MAY ELLIS  
of AUBURN, N.S.W.  
has been registered as a GENERAL nurse in the State  
of New South Wales under the provisions of Section NINE  
sub-section ONE (a) of the "Nurses' Registration Act, 1924-1932."

Dated at Sydney this First day of August, 1941.

E. J. Morris }  
Chairman. } Nurses'  
L. Boyle } Registration  
Registrar. } Board.

Signature of Nurse R. M. Ellis

ST 5970

T. H. TENNANT, ACTING GOVT. PRINTER.

**Nurses Acts  
Victoria**

This is to Certify that RITA MAY ELLIS  
is registered as a General Nurse in the State of Victoria  
under the provisions of Section 14 sub-section 1 of the  
Nurses Acts 1928 and 1931

Dated at Melbourne this 3rd day of October, 1941.

Reg. No. 10016

Chairman M. J. Quinn  
Registrar E. J. Kitchwood

Nurses Board.

SIGNATURE OF NURSE

THE MIDWIVES ACT 1928

Certificate of Registration

ISSUED BY THE NURSES BOARD, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.

We hereby Certify THAT RITA MAY ELLIS  
HAVING FULFILLED THE CONDITIONS OF THE REGULATIONS PRESCRIBED UNDER THE  
MIDWIVES ACT 1928, AND HAVING SATISFIED THE BOARD THAT SHE IS COMPETENT BY  
COMPLETING THE PRESCRIBED COURSE OF TRAINING AND PASSING THE PRESCRIBED  
EXAMINATION, HAS BEEN REGISTERED AND IS ENTITLED TO PRACTICE AS A MIDWIFE  
SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE SAID ACT AND THE REGULATIONS THEREUNDER.

Louis Hammond CHAIRMAN OF BOARD

E. Hitchford REGISTRAR

NO. IN REGISTER 7825.

DATE OF ISSUE 3rd July, 1942.

SIGNATURE OF MIDWIFE R. M. Ellis

H. P.—500—8/41

Reg. No. 150819

It is hereby Certified that  
**Rita May Ellis**

was admitted by Reciprocity with THE NURSES'

REGISTRATION BOARD OF NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA  
to the General part of the Register maintained  
by the General Nursing Council for England  
and Wales on

24th October 1947

and that she is entitled in pursuance of the  
Nurses' Registration Act, 1919, to take and  
use the title of "Registered Nurse" up to  
December 31st, 1948.

Dorothy M. Smith. SRN.  
Chairman of Council.

The Seal of the Council was hereunto affixed  
this 24th day of October 1947.

M. Henry. SRN.  
Registrar.



AUSTRALIAN  
MUSIC EXAMINATIONS BOARD

*Of the Universities of Melbourne, Adelaide, Tasmania, and  
Western Australia, the Queensland Conservatorium of Music,  
and the State Conservatorium of Music New South Wales*

This is to certify that at the Public Examinations held in the year 1964

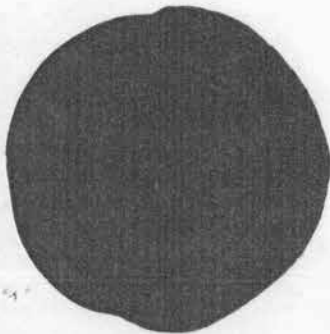
*Rita Ellis*

Passed with Honours the examination in

Pianoforte

*Seventh* Grade

*Signed on behalf of the Board*



*Burk Bishop.*

Chairman

*B. J. Regan*

Organizing Secretary

New South Wales





**Health Commission of New South Wales  
North Coast Region**

11 MOLESWORTH STREET,  
LISMORE, N.S.W. 2480

OUR REFERENCE **S/8 JDR:CD**

YOUR REFERENCE .....

Address all correspondence to the Regional Director

Telegraphic Address:

"HEALTHCOMM", LISMORE

Address reply to:

Box 14, P.O., LISMORE, N.S.W. 2480

PHONE 21 2493/2494/2903/2049/2067

**8th January, 1975.**

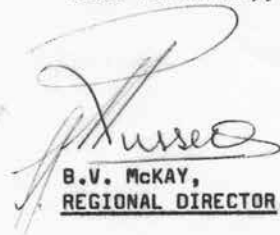
**Sr. R. Ellis,  
C/- Baby Health Centre,  
Vernon Street,  
COFFS HARBOUR. N.S.W. 2450**

Dear Sr. Ellis,

Thank you for your letter dated 20th December, 1974,  
announcing your retirement as from Friday, 7th March, 1975, after twenty  
years service.

I should like to express my appreciation to you for your  
long and valuable services to the community and wish you happiness in  
retirement.

Yours faithfully,



**B.V. McKay,  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR.**

## Epilogue

The mystery of John Ellis's medal ribbon has been solved, and just by chance. For his birthday, George Stevens was given a copy of the book "Australians at War" by Peter Cochrane. On the very first page is a photograph of an old man's hand being held by him across his left breast. Above the hand are four medals he is wearing. The second, third and fourth medals are what are known as WW1 trio, viz. the 1914–18 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. The first one is a circular medal with 8 pointed arrows radiating out and with a crown in the centre. Around the crown are the words "Gallipoli 1914–15".

With this information, George sent an email to Spink of London. Spink have been in the medal business since 1666 and are a world authority on British orders, decorations and medals. Spink replied saying that this is an unofficial medal with a riband described as central dark blue with a thin crimson border and wide edges of yellow and light blue. The medal is a small circular shape superimposed on an 8 pointed star, with ring suspension. In the centre is a crown surrounded by "Gallipoli 1914–15". Bronze 36 mm. As an unofficial medal it is not to be worn with official medals. In 1990 about 200 surviving Gallipoli veterans were presented with this medal which had been approved by King George the fifth at the time but had never been formally accepted by the British government and thus had never been issued.



Thus there is a very high probability that the second medal ribbon being worn by John Ellis in the photo page 10 of the Ellis book is this unofficial Gallipoli medal. The first medal ribbon he is wearing would be the South African Boer War Medal. The WWI trio were not issued until about 1923 so as this photo was taken about 1916 he would not have had these.

## Post Script

As I felt that I owed the author of the book "Australians at War" a vote of thanks for putting me out of my agony in my search for the origin of John Ellis's medal ribbon, I wrote to Peter Cochrane a little letter explaining the circumstances and giving him a brief explanation. I also had the temerity to point out to him that in the photo of the old man's medals there was an error – two in fact. The old man has the ribbons on the British War Medal and the Victory medal reversed, i.e. the Victory Medal is suspended by the BWM ribbon, and vice versa.

I heard nothing back for two months, and figured I must have offended him. Quite the contrary however. Peter wrote a 3 page letter to me saying besides other things, and I quote "Your account of John Ellis' experience was sad and powerful, and confirming for me to read. It reminded me that I was right to spend at least some pages in some chapters on this subject ...."

So, an indistinct photograph taken some 86 years ago raised a question of "What is that ribbon?" which in turn started a chain of enquiries which led to the creation of the Ellis Family History book, and over an elapsed period of almost a year concluded with the answer to the question.

## **Jack Ellis Medal Replicas**

### **Court mounted as a group**

- \* QSA 1899 – 1902 with bars      Johannesburg 31/5/1900  
Diamond Hill 11–12/6/1900  
Cape Colony 11/10/1899 – 31/5/1902  
Orange Free State 28/2/1900 – 31/5/1902
- \* 1914/15 Star
- \* British War Medal 1914–20
- \* Victory Medal 1914–19

### **Separately as a single medal**

\* The unofficial Gallipoli Medal. This is a small circular shape superimposed on an 8 pointed star, with a ring suspension. In the centre is a crown surrounded by “Gallipoli 1914–15”. It is bronze 36 millimetres. The riband is central dark blue with thin crimson border and wide edges of yellow and light blue. In 1990, about 200 UK surviving Gallipoli vets were presented with this medal.

The original medals are in the possession of Mrs Narelle Watt of Coffs Harbour.

## **Afterword**

In considering the lives of these three people which spanned 133 years, individually and collectively they have made worthwhile contributions to the development of Australia as a nation. Unfortunately there is no one person living who can say “These are my direct ancestors, and I will carry on where they have left off”. However, maybe some of their attributes have rubbed off on others in the passing years such that what these three have offered has not been lost entirely. Australia is a better place for having these three people as past citizens.

## Martyn/Ellis Appendix

April 2002

The information in this appendix has come to hand subsequent to the books “Martyn Family history 1801–2001” and “Ellis” having been printed. It is being mailed to a few selected family members, but will be sent to others if requested.

### Martyn

During April 2002, Shirley and George Stevens spent a day and night in Stawell, researching any information relating to John and Dorothy Martyn. At the Stawell Historical Society premises, they obtained a copy of a Stawell survey map showing the location of Short Street (in the middle of the map running parallel with Moonlight Street and between Henderson and Berry Streets). Short Street is known to be the street in which John was the registered owner of a piece of land and the house on it. A copy of this survey map is included here. Efforts were made to locate the precise piece of land without success.

Also included in this appendix is a copy of a Stawell street directory. On this is marked the location of Short Street which is on the top of a hill and has panoramic views around, (C12 on the street map). Also marked on this street map is the location of the Pleasant Creek hospital where Elizabeth Blanche and Richard Thomas were born (G7 on the street map).

Stawell Historical Society is identified on the street map as number 17, located at H8.

The accompanying photograph is that of the old Pleasant Creek hospital. It looks like it has not been used for any purpose for many years.

An interesting point about the enquiries is that the Stawell Historical Society had no knowledge at all of the New Era Quartz mine where John is known to have been the mine manager in 1882. The society's office bearers are now searching their records.

Thus not much more historical information has been discovered, but every little helps, and typically one find ultimately leads to another. As well, if any family members wish to explore further at Stawell, this information will get them away to a good start.



## Corrigenda

Corrections and additions by Anne Taylor, 2017: [anne.m.taylor@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.m.taylor@btinternet.com)

1867 John Lewis Spencer Ellis born Abergwili, Carmathenshire, Wales.  
N.B. Not born in 1877 as shown incorrectly on some documents.

### 1861 census

John Martyn with b family at Clydey, Carmarthenshire.  
Family relocated by boat to Wales.  
Two generations of Richard Martyns move to Llantrisant, Glamorganshire.  
Richard Jnr marries Blanche Ellery Hicks, 1862, Calstock, Cornwall.

### 1870 census

John Martyn (a miner) was in Pennsylvania, USA.  
1872 married Dorothy Crawford.  
1877 sailed from New Jersey to Sydney, Australia, on board *Annie H. Smith* with Dorothy and 3 children – family remained in Australia. They subsequently had five more children.  
John Martyn became Manager of Mt Dromedary Gold Mine, Tilba Tilba, NSW.  
Moves on to dairying!

### 1871 census

Abergwili  
Thomas Ellis b 1836 Liverpool, Lancashire, a school teacher.  
Mary wife b 1840 Llangoedmore, Cardigan.  
Mary Jane 12 b Llangoedmore.  
Eleanor Francis 10 b Llanover, Carmarthenshire.  
Anne Elizabeth 7 b Felinfoel, Carmarthenshire.  
Edith Agnes 5 b Abergwili.  
Edith Agnes (died 1948 New Zealand, Edith Agnes Mace).  
John Lewis Spencer 3 yrs b Abergwili.  
David Edmund 6 mo b Abergwili.  
Lettie Lewis, servant, 25.

### 1901 census

St Marys Cardigan Town, Cardiganshire, Wales.  
Between Commodore House and White Hart Inn.  
JLSE b ca 1869 Abergwili, Carmarthenshire.  
A visitor (farmer) with John J. Griffiths (a plumber) – and family.  
JLSE must have travelled from NZ. See on another document records for military service.  
Marriage 1908 Huntley, NZ, to Mary May Martyn b ca 1875 Pennsylvania, USA.  
MMM born to John Martyn. He was born Cornwall 1848 to Richard Martyn (gunpowder maker) and Eliza Murton.

Two amazing coincidences:

**1871 census:** Abergwili – JLSE is living in the same small village as John Evans, 22, a stone-mason, great-grandfather of Ian Taylor, husband of Anne.

**1901 census:** JLSE in St Marys Cardigan Town, Wales.

Also in same census – great-great-grandfather of Anne Taylor: Joseph Williams b 1813, master mariner.

Living with son John (a tailor) and family.

All records correct.

Years of birth  $\pm$  1 or 2 yrs.

Copies of census records are available.

Photos of M. M. Martyn, John and Dorothy Martyn and JLSE available.

#### **Private John Ellis**

##### **Ancestor Details**

*Ancestor's Name:* John Lewis Spencer Ellis

*Ancestor's date of birth:* 09/06/1877

*Ancestor's date of death:* 23/04/1923

*Cause of Death:* Fell between a train carriage and the platform at Granville NSW railway station. Sustained injuries which caused death.

*Service Number:* New Zealand 331

*Colony or State of enlistment:* New Zealand, *Place of Enlistment:* Waverley Wanganui NZ

*Unit:* New Zealand Mounted Rifles

*Rank attained in Boer War:* PTE, *Date Effective:* 10/01/1900

*Highest Rank attained (if served after war):* TPR, *Date Effective:* 09/1914

*Murray Page:* Not Applicable

*Contingent:* 2nd New Zealand Contingent

*Ship:* Waiwera, *Date of Sailing:* 20/01/1900

*Memorial details:* Not Known

*Decorations:* Queen's South Africa Medal with 4 clasps

*Personal Characteristics:* Provided the material things for his wife and daughter, but did not display affection and was often morose and introspective.

*Reasons to go and fight:* Perhaps being of Welsh extraction, he felt the need to support the Mother country. John Lewis Spencer Ellis was born 9 June 1877 at Carmarthen Wales. It is believed he arrived in Wellington NZ as a young man in 1899 with his family, and for a while was a Kiwi. He enlisted as a in the New Zealand Mounted Rifles 19/1/1900, and subsequently served 1 year and 356 days in South Africa.

*Details of service in war:* Johannesburg 31/5/1900, Diamond Hill 12/6/1900, Cape Colony 1/10/1902 to 31/5/1902 and Orange Free State 28/2/1900 to 31/5/1902.



*Service and life after the Boer War:* He was a farmer and a mechanic. On 10/6/1908 he married my aunt at Huntly NZ, and they moved to Sydney to be with her family. At the outbreak of WW1 he enlisted in the Australian army, and On 10/6/1908 he married an aunt of my wife at Huntly NZ, and they moved to Sydney to be with her family. At the outbreak of WW1 he enlisted in the Australian army, and because of his Boer War and later farming experiences with horses, was accepted into the 1st Light Horse Regiment of the 1st Light Horse Brigade, with the astonishingly low service number of 19. He subsequently served in Gallipoli from 12/5/1915 until December 1915. His regiment was then deployed in the Sinai desert where he was one of the attacking force in the battle of Romani 4/8/1916. During this battle he was wounded, assessed unfit for further military service, and repatriated back to Australia.

#### **Descendant Details**

*Name of Descendant:* Nancy Shirley (Known as Shirley) (Mrs) Stevens, Berowra Heights NSW  
*Relationship to Ancestor:* Niece